Provincially and Regionally Significant Wetlands in Southern Ontario

Interim Report - 1987

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

page

Table of Contents i

List of Tables and Figures ii

Introduction 1

Background 2

Provincially and Regionally Significant Wetlands of Southern Ontario
    Eastern Region
        Regional Discussion 7
            Cornwall District 9
            Brockville District 39
            Napanee District 71

    Central Region
        Regional Discussion 95
            Lindsay District 97
            Huronia District 117
            Maple District 137
            Cambridge District 165
            Niagara District 185

    Southwestern Region
        Regional Discussion 219
            Owen Sound District 221
            Simcoe District 247
            Aylmer District 261
            Chatham District 295

References 314

Glossary 316

Appendix
    Alphabetical Listing of Evaluated Wetlands 319

TABLES AND FIGURES

page

Figure 1
Southern Ontario Wetland Loss 4

Tables
Table 1
Wetland Classes and Scoring 5

Table 2
Provincially and Regionally Significant Wetlands Evaluated in 1983-84 6

INTRODUCTION

Provincially and Regionally Significant Wetlands of Southern Ontario - Interim Report 1987 provides a description of many important wetlands of southern Ontario. Wetland descriptions were based on An Evaluation System for Wetlands of Ontario (Canada/Ontario Steering Committee on Wetland Evaluation 1984). The wetlands were evaluated by employees of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Canadian Wildlife Service and conservation authorities in 1983 and 1984. Preparation of the significant wetlands interim report was sponsored by the World Wildlife Fund (Canada) and supported by the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters with funds made available from the federal government under Special Employment Program, Section 38.

The provincial program for wetland evaluation identified 152 provincially and regionally significant wetlands out of over 700 wetlands which were evaluated in 1983 and 1984. This document provides a brief background and description for these important resources that are scattered across southern Ontario. The purpose of the report is to make information on significant wetlands readily available to municipalities and planning agencies with a mandate for land use management decisions. The information will also be of interest to landowners, resource users and naturalist organizations.

The Federation of Ontario Naturalists (FON), a long-time advocate of wetland conservation, has released a document, "Important Wetlands of Ontario South of the Precambrian Shield", in which 53 wetlands are described in detail. The FON document contains the results of a survey designed to identify the important wetlands of southern Ontario. Of the 53 wetlands profiled in the FON report, 31 are among the 152 provincially or regionally significant (Classes 1-3) included in "Provincially and Regionally Significant Wetlands of Southern Ontario - Interim Report 1987". All other wetlands covered in the FON report were subsequently evaluated, except the Walpole Island Marshes which are under the administration and control of the local band council and the federal government.

Acknowledgements

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BACKGROUND

The need for a system to evaluate Ontario's wetlands has been recognized for some time. As has been the case in many areas of the world, wetland loss in Ontario has been proceeding at a rapid rate.

Some areas of southern Ontario have lost 81 to 100 per cent of their original wetlands from the time of settlement in the mid-1850s to the present (Figure 1). A number of studies in the last several years have commented on this. McCullough (1981) discussed the critical value of the remaining Lake Erie wetlands to migratory waterfowl and Whillans (1979) addressed the fisheries value of lakeshore marshes. Cox (1972), Reid (1979, 1981) and Bardecki (1981) have commented on various aspects of wetland loss. Lynch-Stewart (1983) discussed the greater wetland loss for southwestern Ontario than for the eastern and central portions of the province. Snell (1985) updated and summarized the pressures on southern Ontario wetlands and provided a comprehensive study on wetland distribution and mapping.

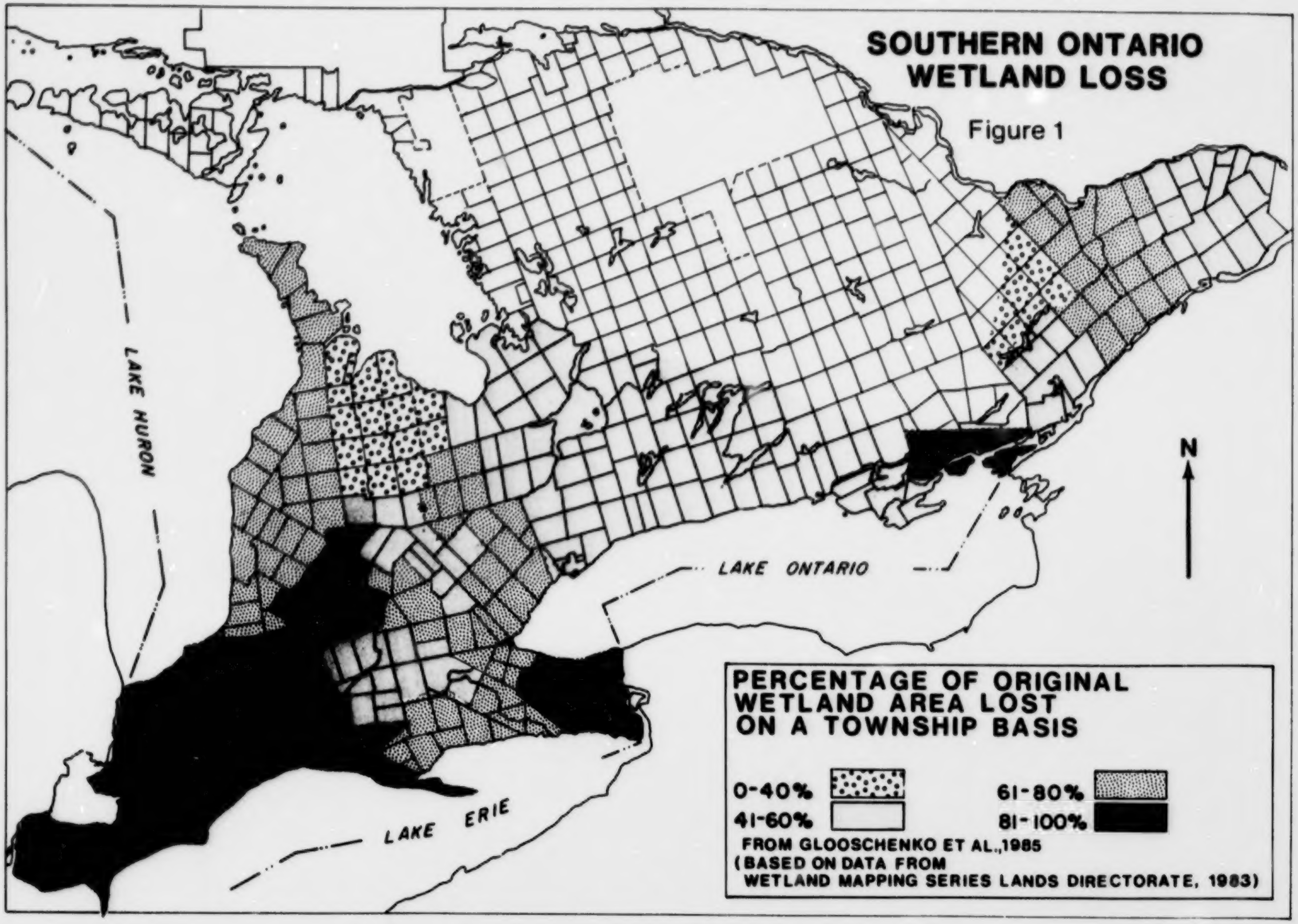
In 1981 development of a quantitative system of wetland evaluation was begun by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the Canadian Wildlife Service (Canada/Ontario Steering Committee 1984). The methodology has been subjected to considerable field testing as well as analyses of its statistical properties. This formed the basis for subsequent revisions to the system. The evaluation system is based on the grouping of wetland values according to biological, social, hydrological and special features components. The special features component includes assessment of endangered and provincially significant animals and plants, and habitat for migratory birds. Using the evaluation method, wetlands are ranked in Classes from 1 to 7. Classes 1 and 2 are considered to be provincially significant; Class 3 wetlands are determined regionally significant. The provincial wetland ranking system provides the basis for the Guidelines for Wetland Management issued by the Government of Ontario in April 1984 (Table 1).

The Ontario government is committed to the management and protection of the province's wetlands. A formal policy statement on wetlands is presently being prepared by an interministerial committee composed of representatives from Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), Ministry of Environment (MOE), Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food (OMAF). This wetland policy will outline the government's long term approach to protecting provincially significant wetlands.

Ontario's wetland program is one of a number of recent initiatives by government and voluntary organizations aimed at protecting significant natural areas. Notable among the other efforts are the following: the Niagara Escarpment Plan and efforts to implement the plan; the Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) program (see Glossary); the Carolinian Canada initiative supported by both government and voluntary conservation groups (see Glossary); and a proposed 100 per cent tax rebate for landowners of Class 1-3 wetlands and Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI).

Wetland evaluations were carried out in 1983 by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, several conservation authorities and the Canadian Wildlife Service. In 1984 OMNR and conservation authority staff continued the wetland evaluation process. Priority was given to the identification and evaluation of what were considered to be the most significant wetlands. Quality control in the methodology of wetland evaluation is maintained through evaluation courses co-ordinated by the province. Of the 700 wetlands evaluated in 1983 and 1984, 96 were ranked as provincially significant and 56 as regionally significant (Table 2). A number of these were re-evaluated during 1985-1987 to incorporate more recent data. Information on other wetlands evaluated in 1985-1987 will be summarized in another report to be prepared when analysis of that information is completed.

Since completion of the Second Edition of the Evaluation System for Wetlands of Ontario (Canada/Ontario Steering Committee on Wetland Evaluation 1984) the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources has been the lead agency in identifying and evaluating wetlands throughout southern Ontario.



SOUTHERN ONTARIO WETLAND LOSS

Figure 1

LAKE HURON
LAKE ONTARIO
LAKE ERIE
N
PERCENTAGE OF ORIGINAL WETLAND AREA LOST ON A TOWNSHIP BASIS
0-40%
41-60%
61-80%
81-100%

FROM GLOOSCHENKO ET AL.,1985
(BASED ON DATA FROM
WETLAND MAPPING SERIES LANDS DIRECTORATE, 1983)

Table 1

WETLAND CLASSES AND SCORING

	Total Points		
CLASS 1 PROVINCIAL SIGNIFICANCE	700 OR MORE	OR	3 OUT OF 4 COMPONENTS SCORING HIGHER THAN 200 POINTS EACH
CLASS 2 PROVINCIAL SIGNIFICANCE	650 OR MORE	OR	2 OUT OF 4 COMPONENTS SCORING HIGHER THAN 200 POINTS EACH
CLASS 3 REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE	600 OR MORE	OR	1 OUT OF 4 COMPONENTS SCORING HIGHER THAN 200 POINTS
CLASS 4	550 OR MORE	OR	ALL 4 COMPONENTS SCORING ABOVE 100 POINTS EACH
CLASS 5	500 OR MORE	OR	3 OUT OF 4 COMPONENTS SCORING MORE THAN 100 POINTS EACH
CLASS 6	450 OR MORE	OR	2 OUT OF 4 COMPONENTS SCORING MORE THAN 100 POINTS EACH
CLASS 7	ALL OTHERS NOT INCLUDED ABOVE		

From: Guidelines for Wetland Management in Ontario. April 1984. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

Table 2

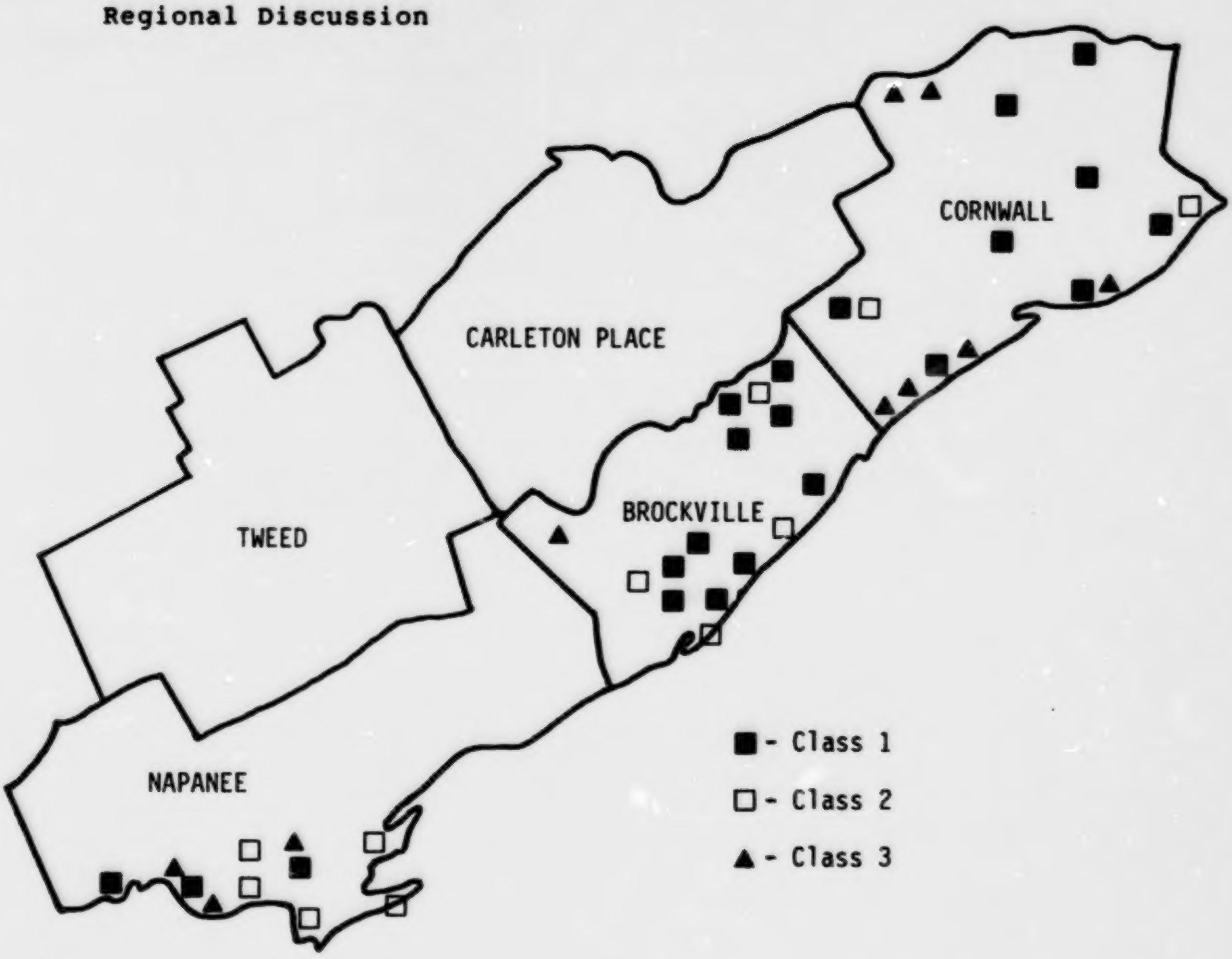
PROVINCIALLY AND REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT WETLANDS

EVALUATED IN 1983-84

MNR ADMINISTRATIVE REGION	NUMBER EVALUATED	NUMBER RANKED PROVINCIALLY SIGNIFICANT CLASS I	NUMBER RANKED PROVINCIALLY SIGNIFICANT II	NUMBER RANKED REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT III	PERCENTAGE RANKED CLASS I AND II PROVINCIALLY SIGNIFICANT	PERCENTAGE RANKED CLASS III REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT
CENTRAL	177	24	17	21	23.2	11.9
EASTERN	295	21	11	10	10.8	3.4
SOUTHWESTERN	228	11	12	25	10.1	11.0
SUB-TOTAL		56	40	56		
TOTAL	700	96		56	13.7	8.0

EASTERN REGION

Regional Discussion



In the Eastern Region of Ontario marsh-dominated wetlands are most common. Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence and Ottawa Rivers greatly influence their distribution and characteristics. Among the Eastern Region's outstanding wetlands is the Presqu'ile Bay Marsh which is very important for migrating birds. This attribute has made Presqu'ile extremely popular with Ontario's birdwatchers and hunters. The Ram's-head Lady's Slipper and Pale Green Orchis are among Presqu'ile's rare flora. The Upper Canada Migratory Bird Sanctuary provides habitat for the provincially significant American Wigeon, Redhead and Double-crested Cormorant, and the regionally significant Osprey. Alfred

Bog supports a wide variety of uncommon and rare plants, animals and insects in southern Ontario's most extensive bog habitat (3740 ha). The variety of mammals supported in the bog includes a sizable Moose population. The Mer Bleue Bog is another well-known and well-documented wetland; it contains rare flora including the Southern Twayblade, White-fringed Orchid and Twin-scaped Bladderwort.*

One important component of the Ontario government's efforts to protect the province's natural heritage is the Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) program (see Glossary). Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) have "values related to protection, natural heritage appreciation, scientific study or education". The purpose of the program is to promote the protection of ANSI by landowners, whether they are private individuals, organizations or public agencies. Many wetlands discussed in this report are also ANSI. In the Eastern Region, Alfred Bog, Wolford Bog (Part I) and Fish Lake have all been designated provincially significant ANSI. Other wetlands may be declared ANSI in the near future, as ANSI studies for sections of eastern Ontario are nearing completion.

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* **FOOTNOTE:** In this report, the first letter of the common names of particular species is capitalized (e.g. Red Maple). Names referring to groups of species are not capitalized (e.g. maple).

CORNWALL DISTRICT

Wetland	Class	County	page
Alfred Bog	1	Prescott	11
Baie Lafontaine	3	Russell	13
Bainsville Bay Marsh	2	Glengarry	14
Carillon Park Marsh	1	Prescott	16
Charlottenburgh Marsh	1	Glengarry	18
Doran Creek Marsh	3	Dundas	20
Hoasic Creek Wetland	1	Dundas	21
Hoople Creek Wetland	3	Stormont	23
Loch Garry	1	South Nation, Stormont	25
Moose Creek Swamp	1	Stormont, Russell	27
Morewood Swamp	2	Dundas	29
Parker Island Marsh	3	Russell	31
Riverside Marsh	3	Dundas	32
Upper Canada Migratory Bird Sanctuary	1	Stormont, Dundas	33
Westley's Creek Marsh	3	Glengarry	35
Winchester Swamp	1	Dundas	37

ALFRED BOG

Region - Eastern
District - Cornwall
Conservation Authority
-South Nation River

County - Prescott
Township - Caledonia
Con. I-V
Lots 11-24
Township - Alfred
Con. VIII-XIII
Lots 4-14

Latitude - 45° 30′
Longitude - 74° 47′

Total Size - 3740 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
86 per cent bog
13 per cent swamp
1 per cent marsh

General Description

Alfred Bog is one of the largest relatively untouched bogs in the Eastern Region. The dominant vegetation type in the bog is Balsam Fir/boreal forest. Well interspersed are other typical bog communities including coniferous swamp forests, ericaceous shrub communities, shrub carrs and aspen forests. Many successional stages are found in the bog. Two rare species of sedge are found in Alfred Bog. The New England Sedge is widespread in Ontario, but is generally found in deciduous forests on the Canadian Shield. The other rare sedge, Carex atlantica ssp. capillacea, inhabits only clearings in shrubby bogs and was unknown in Ontario until 1981. Other provincially significant plant species include the Thin-scaped Bladderwort, White Fringed Orchis and Southern Twayblade, for which only one other location in Ontario is known. Regionally significant plant species include the Virginia Chain Fern, Arethusa and Canada Blueberry.

Alfred Bog is one of the few locations in Ontario with a population of the Spotted Turtle. Several interesting insect species are also found in the bog. These include the Bog Elfin Butterfly and Jutta Arctic Butterfly, species generally restricted to bog habitats and rare in the south. A species of corduliid dragonfly (Wiliamsonia fletcheri), which is rare even in its preferred bog habitat, is found in Alfred Bog. The complete life cycle of this insect is still unknown. Undoubtedly, as more scientific investigations are carried out, other interesting species will be discovered in the bog. Due to the foregoing and other criteria, Alfred Bog is also considered a provincially significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI).

Alfred Bog is perhaps best known for its Moose herd. The first sightings of a few Moose in the bog were in 1952. The herd grew slowly at first, but in the late 1970s grew rapidly until approximately 100 Moose inhabited the bog, giving it one of the densest populations in North America. The overpopulation led to a drastic die-off, but the population has rebounded now to a healthy 50-60 individuals. Other wildlife species present include the Red Foxes, Coyotes, Muskrats, Mink, Raccoons and hares.

Alfred Bog is a headwater area for a number of creeks and streams; although its catchment basin is not large, it plays an important role in flow stabilization during high-water times and augmentation during drier times of the year.

Recreational use of the bog is diverse, but not extensive for any particular purpose. Naturalists, berry pickers and hobby collectors make moderate use of the bog, and occasionally, organized groups visit the area.

Most of the land surrounding the bog is agricultural and devoid of trees. Alfred Bog is a unique oasis in an otherwise agricultural landscape. It is potentially highly vulnerable to impacts from exploitation.

Special Features

Extensive bog type habitats are rare in southern Ontario. Among these Alfred Bog is unique. It supports a wide variety of uncommon plants and animals including several provincially and regionally significant species. Its large size gives it importance in flow stabilization and augmentation.

BAIE LAFONTAINE

Region - Eastern
District - Cornwall

County - Russell
Township - Clarence
Con. Broken Front
Lots 32-37

Latitude - 45° 32′
Longitude - 75° 19′

Total Size - 325 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
97 per cent marsh
3 per cent swamp

General Description

This wetland is located along the Ottawa River a few kilometres southwest of Rockland. Open water covers about two-thirds of the wetland area. Because of its proximity to the Ottawa River, Baie Lafontaine wetland is of little hydrological value. Soils are primarily poorly drained clay.

Pickerelweed, Eelgrass, bur reeds and arrowheads predominate in marsh areas with submergents such as Water Milfoil and Eelgrass in open water areas. Swamp vegetation is dominated by Black Ash, Buttonbush, poplars and willows.

Baie Lafontaine provides a feeding area for colonial waterbirds as well as a spawning and rearing habitat for perch and pike. Resources in the wetland include Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles, Muskrats, Raccoons and bait fish.

Baie Lafontaine wetland is entirely publicly owned and has easy access at most times of the year. Hunting activity is high; several duck blinds are present. There is also some fishing and boating in the wetland. There is currently very little human disturbance at Baie Lafontaine.

Special Features

Baie Lafontaine wetland provides habitat for the provincially significant Black Tern and Marsh Wren. It is also important for its high biological diversity.

BAINSVILLE BAY MARSH

Region - Eastern
District - Cornwall
Conservation Authority
- Raisin River

County - Glengarry
Township - Lancaster
Con. I
Lots 5-20

Latitude - 45° 10′
Longitude - 74° 23′

Total Size - 472 ha
Class - 2
Type of Wetland -
75 per cent marsh
25 per cent swamp

General Description

This single contiguous wetland is located less than ten kilometres northeast of Lancaster, along Lake St. Francis (part of the St. Lawrence River) and the mouth of Sutherland Creek. The dominant site type is riverine. Much of the wetland is covered by open water, primarily in small ponds and embayments. Because of the overwhelming effects of the nearby St. Lawrence River the wetland is of minimal value for flow stabilization of local watercourses. Soils are mainly poorly drained sandy loam and silty loam.

Interspersion of vegetation forms is low at Bainsville Bay Marsh. Dominant plant species include cattails, bulrushes and arrowheads interspersed with White Water Lily, Yellow Water Lily, Reed Canary Grass, duckweeds, sedges and stands of Black Ash, maples and elms.

The wetland is regionally significant for waterfowl staging and production as well as for the spawning and rearing of Yellow Perch. Resources within Bainsville Bay Marsh include some mature timber, Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles and furbearers such as Muskrats, Raccoons, Mink, Red Foxes and Coyotes. In addition, baitfish are harvested from the area.

About 28 per cent of the Bainsville Bay Marsh is privately owned. Bainsville Bay Marsh is easily accessible only at certain times of the year. Hunting, fishing and boating are all frequent activities in the wetland. Several reports have been written outlining aspects of the wetland's natural resources.

Human disturbance to the wetland is intense in some areas of Bainsville Bay Marsh and is caused by roads, channelization, drainage, filling, water pollution, docks, boats, and commercial shipping.

Special Features

This wetland provides habitat for the provincially significant Double-crested Cormorant, American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Redhead and Black Tern.

CARILLON PARK MARSH

Region - Eastern
District - Cornwall
Conservation Authority
- Lower Trent

County - Prescott
Township - Hawkesbury
Con. I
Lots 5-17

Latitude - 45° 33'
Longitude - 74° 26'

Total Size - 306 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
82 per cent marsh
18 per cent swamp

General Description

The construction of a hydroelectric dam at the Long Sault Rapids in 1959 impounded the Ottawa River and created this marshland upstream; it is now part of Carillon Provincial Park. Prior to this the land was used for farming. Since the wetland is very young the soils on which it is based have not had time to develop the organic nature common to many wetlands. Clay is the primary soil type underlying all of the surface deposits. The wetland has little value in flow stabilization because it is on the Ottawa River and water levels are controlled by the dam.

The vegetated areas of the marsh, restricted primarily to the shores of the river, are dominated by cattails. The wetland also includes many inlets and embayments from the river which contain a considerable amount of submergent vegetation. Several types of non-wetland communities such as meadows, open fields and hawthorn savannas are proximal to and evenly interspersed within the marsh communities. This interspersion gives the area a very high diversity of flora and fauna. Restricted drainage has resulted in some permanently saturated forest areas; White Ash, American Elm, Red Maple and Trembling Aspen occupy such sites. Extensive mud flats form between the cattails and the water's edge when the water level is low.

Muskrats are very common in the marsh; Mink and Raccoons are present and Beavers are seen occasionally. The wetland is a very important stopover for migrating waterfowl, shorebirds and some raptors. As many as 12 Osprey have been reported at one time in the park. The marsh and adjacent waters of the Ottawa River are important spawning areas for Yellow Perch, pike and pickerel.

The park and its wetlands are host to a number of educational visits. Local school groups and senior citizens' clubs are among the organizations making use of the park's facilities. Staffed interpretation centres, trails and literature are available for visitors. Fishing and boating are common activities in the wetland and campgrounds are present at its edges. A controlled waterfowl hunt is held every autumn because of the large numbers of waterfowl which use the marsh as a staging area.

Special Features

This wetland has a high social value because it is part of Carillon Provincial Park. Many recreational activities take place in the marsh and the surrounding waters of the Ottawa River. The numbers and species diversity of ducks, geese and shorebirds, especially during migration, give the area significance on a provincial scale.

CHARLOTTENBURGH MARSH

Region - Eastern
District - Cornwall
Conservation Authority
- Raisin River

County - Glengarry
Township - Charlottenburgh
Con. I F.R. Lots 1-24
II F.R. 1
I S.S.R. 52-60

Latitude - 45° 04′
Longitude - 74° 32′

Total Size - 851 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
90 per cent marsh
10 per cent swamp

General Description

This riverine wetland is located along Lake St. Francis (the St. Lawrence River) about twenty kilometres northeast of Cornwall. Because of its proximity to the St. Lawrence River, Charlottenburgh Marsh is of little value for flow stabilization. Open water covers much of the wetland area.

There is a high diversity of vegetation communities in this marsh. Dominant plant species include Water Milfoil, Yellow Water Lily and White Water Lily, Silver Maple, Pickerelweed, alders, cattails, waterweeds, bulrushes and sedges.

Charlottenburgh Marsh provides a nesting area for the Black Tern. The area is regionally significant for waterfowl staging and production as well as for the spawning and rearing of Yellow Perch. The marsh supports several valuable resources including Wild Rice, Snapping Turtles, Bullfrogs, Muskrats, Raccoons, Beavers and Mink. Bait fish are harvested from the wetland.

About 70 per cent of Charlottenburgh Marsh is publicly owned and is accessible without restriction. Hunting, fishing, boating and nature appreciation are all frequent activities in the wetland. The area is used occasionally for educational purposes. A recently constructed boardwalk in the section of the wetland owned by the Raisin River Conservation Authority is expected to increase visits substantially.

Intense disturbance of the wetland in some areas is caused by roads, buildings, channelization, water pollution and boats.

Special Features

Charlottenburgh Marsh provides habitat for the provincially significant Double-crested Cormorant, American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Redhead and Black Tern.

DORAN CREEK MARSH

Region - Eastern
District - Cornwall

County - Dundas
Township - Matilda
Con. I
Lots 15,17-20

Latitude - 44° 51′
Longitude - 75° 17′

Total Size - 42.2 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
100 per cent marsh

General Description

Doran Creek Marsh is located about ten kilometres southwest of Morrisburg. It is composed of four individual wetlands, ranging in size from 8.0 to 13.3 ha. Much of the area is open water which occurs in small ponds and embayments. The wetland is mainly riverine along the St. Lawrence River and at the mouth of Hilliard's Creek; the secondary type is palustrine. Because of its proximity to the St. Lawrence River the wetland is of little value for flow stabilization.

Stands of cattails are interspersed with open water areas containing Coontail and pondweeds as well as areas of cattails mixed with duckweeds, grasses and herbs. Habitat diversity is high, as is biological productivity. The wetland provides a feeding area for the Great Blue Heron and a spawning and rearing habitat for fish. The area is also of local significance for waterfowl production. Fish are harvested from the wetland; other resources present include Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles, Muskrats and Raccoons.

The wetland is entirely publicly owned with easy access. There is moderate fishing activity as well as some hunting and boating. Disturbances to the marsh include roads, buildings and some water pollution.

Special Features

This wetland complex provides habitat for the provincially significant American Wigeon and Common Tern.

HOASIC CREEK WETLAND

Region - Eastern
District - Cornwall

County - Dundas
Township - Williamsburg
Con. III Lots 8-17
IV 16-19
V 7-17

Latitude - 44° 59′
Longitude - 75° 09′

Total Size - 4088 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
97.3 per cent swamp
2.4 per cent bog
0.3 per cent marsh

General Description

This single contiguous wetland is located about ten kilometres north of Morrisburg and is comprised primarily of swamp. The site type is riverine, near the headwaters of Hoasic Creek. Its size relative to the size of the catchment basin and the lack of detention areas either above or below the wetland make it valuable for flow stabilization. This is important because much of the land on the floodplain below the wetland is farmland.

Interspersion of vegetation forms in the wetland is high. Most of the wetland is covered with dead trees, shrubs and emergents interspersed with floating and submerged plants, herbs and moss. Soils are primarily organic.

Much of the surrounding area is forested; the remainder is farm or abandoned agricultural land. Wild Rice covers approximately five per cent of the wetland area; other resources such as bait fish, Bullfrogs, Muskrats, Beavers, Raccoons and Mink are present. The wetland provides fair winter cover for wildlife and is of regional significance for waterfowl production.

Most of the wetland is privately owned. There are a few minor disturbances in the wetland, including a building and a road.

Special Features

The Hoasic Creek wetland is valuable for its role in flow stabilization. The wetland also provides habitat for the provincially significant River Otter, Northern Harrier and American Wigeon.

HOOPLE CREEK WETLAND

Region - Eastern
District - Cornwall
Conservation Authority
- Raisin River

County - Stormont
Township - Osnabruck
Con. II
Lots 8-15

Latitude - 45° 01'
Longitude - 74° 57'

Total Size - 169 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
90 per cent marsh
10 per cent swamp

General Description

This riverine wetland is located within the Lake St. Lawrence Wildlife Planning Area about twenty kilometres west of Cornwall. Soils are mainly well drained loam formed from heavy limestone till. More than half of Hoople Creek wetland is covered by open water. Because of its proximity to the St. Lawrence River the wetland is of little hydrological value.

The wetland is dominated by Reed Canary Grass, Silver Maple, Black Ash, willows and cattails. A cover of Black Ash, White Elm and Red Maple is associated with the swamp areas. Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles, Muskrats, Raccoons, Red Foxes and Coyotes are all found in the wetland. Hoople Creek is of regional significance for waterfowl staging and locally important for waterfowl production. It is also regionally important for fish spawning and rearing, and Carp are currently being harvested from the wetland.

The area is 70 per cent privately-owned but open to the public for some activities. The remainder is public and unrestricted, with generally easy access. A high intensity of fishing and a moderate amount of hunting and boating take place. The wetland is visited frequently for nature appreciation and education by groups such as schools and the Boy Scouts. These activities are enhanced by a system of self-guiding trails. There are a few localized disturbances in the wetland, including roads and buildings.

Special Features

The Hoople Creek Wetland provides habitat for the provincially significant Double-crested Cormorant, American Wigeon and Northern Shoveler as well as the regionally rare Osprey. The wetland is also valuable for the recreational opportunities it provides.

LOCH GARRY

Region - Eastern
District - Cornwall
Conservation Authority
- Raisin River

County - South Nation
Stormont
Township - Kenyon
Con. I-5

Latitude - 45° 15'
Longitude - 74° 42'

Total Size - 1281 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
40 per cent swamp
14 per cent bog
46 per cent marsh

General Description

This wetland complex, comprising seven individual wetlands, is located about ten kilometres southwest of Alexandria. Loch Garry is almost evenly divided into palustrine, lacustrine and riverine site types. The wetland comprises 42.4 per cent of its 30 square kilometre catchment basin, giving the area considerable value for flow augmentation during dry weather. Since there are no detention areas below the wetland, the wetland is of some value for flow stabilization. This is of particular importance because an urban area is nearby. Nearly half of the wetland is covered by open water.

There is a high diversity of vegetation communities in the wetland. Species present include Water Milfoil, Waterweed, Balsam Fir, cattails, water lilies, cedars, maples, birches and dogwoods as well as Leatherleaf and sphagnum mosses in bog areas.

The Loch Garry wetland provides good winter cover for deer and spawning as well as rearing habitat for Bullhead and Largemouth Bass. The area is regionally significant for waterfowl staging and locally important for waterfowl production. Resources in the wetland include wild rice, mature timber, Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles, bait fish and furbearers such as Muskrats, Raccoons, Beavers and Mink.

Seventy per cent of the wetland is privately owned. There is a high intensity of hunting at Loch Garry as well as some fishing, boating and nature appreciation. Groups such as the Boy Scouts, school groups and canoe clubs use the wetland occasionally for educational purposes.

Human disturbance within Loch Garry wetland is moderate and includes roads and dikes.

Special Features

The Loch Garry wetland provides habitat for the provincially significant American Wigeon, Marsh Hawk and Red-shouldered Hawk as well as the regionally significant Osprey.

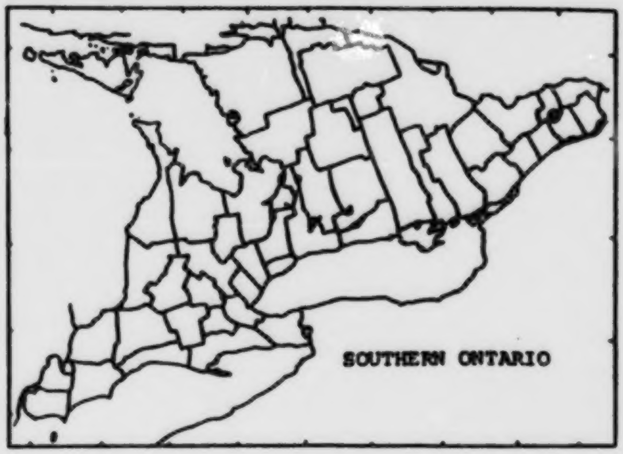
MOOSE CREEK SWAMP

Region - Eastern
District - Cornwall
Conservation Authority
 - South Nation River

Counties - Stormont, Russell
Township - Roxborough
Cons. VIII-X
Lots 16-21
Township - Cambridge
Cons. VIII-X
Lots 1-6

Latitude - 45° 17′
Longitude - 75° 00′

Total Size - 1643 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
 95 per cent swamp
 5 per cent marsh



General Description

This large wetland complex consists of three individual wetlands and is located less than ten kilometres southeast of Casselman. Adjacent to Moose Creek the wetland is riverine. Extensive drains throughout this area are changing it to a transition state between upland and wetland.

Interspersion of vegetation forms is medium in Moose Creek Swamp. Although mosses are present they are not dominant. The soils are peaty. The principal vegetation communities include Tamarack-swamp forest, spruce-swamp forest and willow-sedge meadows. During midsummer to fall duckweeds cover the surface of the water in the drains.

Much of the land in the surrounding landscape is actively farmed agricultural land or pasture. The wetland provides winter cover for several wildlife species and habitat for Beavers. Many common amphibian species are found in Moose Creek Swamp.

The area is entirely privately owned. Disturbances to the wetland include some minor roads and utility corridors as well as considerable channelization and drainage.

Special Features

The Moose Creek Swamp's most valuable feature is its hydrological function. Its large surface area plus the lack of significant detention areas above or below the wetland make it valuable for flow stabilization and augmentation.

MOREWOOD SWAMP

Region - Eastern
District - Cornwall
Conservation Authority
- South Nation River

County - Dundas
Township - Winchester
Con. VII - IX
Lots 19-23

Latitude - 45° 08′
Longitude - 75° 15′

Total Size - 515.3 ha
Class - 2
Type of Wetland -
72 per cent swamp
26 per cent bog
2 per cent marsh

General Description

This single wetland is located a few kilometres north of Chesterville. About a quarter of the wetland area of Morewood Swamp is bog; the remainder is mostly swamp. The site type is palustrine, with permanent outflow via Moffat Creek. Approximately half of the wetland's soils are poorly drained muck while the other half are medium to heavy textured loam and clay loam. The wetland comprises 32 per cent of its 16 square kilometre catchment basin and is thus of value for flow augmentation during dry weather. Its size, along with the lack of detention areas upstream or downstream from the wetland, give it importance for flow stabilization. These factors are of particular value because much of the land in the catchment basin is agricultural.

Interspersion of vegetation forms in the wetland is medium and more than half is covered with stands of mature trees. Plant species found in Morewood Swamp include Grey Birch, cattails, sphagnum mosses, blueberries, willows and aspens. The diversity of the area surrounding the wetland is high and includes crops, pastures, forests, creeks and urban development. The wetland provides a feeding area for the Great Blue Heron as well as good winter habitat for deer. It contains many resources including Bullfrogs, furbearers such as Muskrats, Raccoons, Beavers, Mink, Red Foxes and Coyotes and a mature timber stand.

Half of Morewood Swamp is privately owned and access restricted, while the remainder is public and access unrestricted. Of the public land, about 80 per cent is County Agreement Forest. Intensity of hunting in this wetland is high, particularly for the White-tailed Deer and American Woodcock. There are several localized disturbances in the Morewood Swamp including an old road, a hydro corridor, drainage, a trail and timber removal.

Special Features

The Morewood Swamp provides habitat for the provincially significant Least Bittern and Sedge Wren. It is also of value for its hydrological features.

PARKER ISLAND MARSH

Region - Eastern
District - Cornwall

County - Russell
Township - Clarence
Con. Broken Front,
Parker Island
Lots 8-11

Latitude - 45° 35'
Longitude - 75° 13'

Total Size - 77 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
96 per cent marsh
4 per cent swamp

General Description

This small wetland is located on the south shore of the Ottawa River, a few kilometres northeast of Rockland. Because of its proximity to the Ottawa River the area is of little value for flow stabilization. About 80 per cent of the wetland is covered by open water. Soils are primarily clays and clay-sand.

Interspersion of vegetation forms in the wetland is low. Pickerelweed, arrowheads and grasses predominate in marsh areas with Eelgrass and White Water Lily in open water areas. Swamp vegetation consists primarily of Black Ash, Royal Fern and dogwoods.

The marsh provides a feeding area for colonial waterbirds as well as spawning and rearing habitat for Carp. Fish are harvested from the wetland. Other resources present are Bullfrogs and Muskrats. There is a moderate level of hunting and fishing as well as some boating.

There are a few localized disturbances in the area, including some water pollution and garbage.

Special Features

This wetland provides habitat for the provincially significant Black Tern and Marsh Wren.

RIVERSIDE MARSH

Region - Eastern
District - Cornwall

County - Dundas
Township - Williamsburg
Con. I
Lots 11-20

Latitude - 45° 55′
Longitude - 75° 08′

Total Size - 134 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
85 per cent marsh
15 per cent swamp

General Description

This small single wetland is located along the St. Lawrence River a few kilometres northeast of Morrisburg. It is composed primarily of marsh and much of the area is covered by open water. Because of its proximity to the St. Lawrence River the wetland is of little value for flow stabilization. It is, however, of some value for short-term removal of nutrients, particularly important here because it is located within an urban area. Soils are predominantly loam and clay loam.

Interspersion of vegetation forms is low in the wetland. Marsh areas are dominated by cattails, grasses and duckweeds while swamp communities consist primarily of willow shrubs, dogwoods, grasses and mixed herbs. The wetland provides good winter habitat for deer and a feeding area for the Great Blue Heron. The wetland is also locally significant for waterfowl production and provides a fish spawning and rearing area. The wetland supports commercial fish and furbearers such as Muskrats and Raccoons.

The wetland is entirely public land with restricted activities. Localized disturbances include roads and cattle grazing.

Special Features

This wetland provides habitat for the provincially significant Common Tern and Marsh Wren.

UPPER CANADA MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY WETLAND

Region - Eastern
District - Cornwall
Conservation Authority
- Raisin River

County - Stormont
Dundas
Township - Osnabruck
Con. I Lots 23-37
- Williamsburg
Con. I Lot 1

Latitude - 44° 58'
Longitude - 75° 01'

Total Size - 321 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
29 per cent swamp
71 per cent marsh

General Description

The Upper Canada Migratory Bird Sanctuary wetland is located within the boundaries of the Lake St. Lawrence Wildlife Planning Area. Approximately half of this lacustrine wetland is covered by open water. The wetland is separated from the St. Lawrence by dikes, which tend to create a nutrient trap. Because of its proximity to the St. Lawrence River, the wetland is of minimal value for flow stabilization. However, in the event of flooding, if the dike is not opened the wetland can act as a storage area.

Soils are primarily poorly-drained sandy loam formed from deltaic sand over clay or limestone till. There is a high diversity of habitats in the area surrounding the wetland, and medium interspersion of vegetation forms. Dominant species include Reed Canary Grass, Water Milfoil, cattails, willows, sedges and soft maples.

The wetland provides regionally significant winter habitat for deer and is provincially significant for waterfowl staging and production. Resources in the wetland include fish, timber, Snapping Turtles, Bullfrogs, Muskrats, Racoons, Mink, Beavers, Red Foxes and Coyotes.

The wetland is 76 per cent public land. Recreational activities such as nature appreciation, fishing and boating are frequent activities in this wetland. There is a system of self-guiding trails used by visiting schools, senior citizens' clubs and other groups.

Human disturbance within the wetland is moderate in the form of roads, buildings, dikes and water pollution.

Special Features

This wetland provides habitat for the provincially significant Double-crested Cormorant, American Wigeon and Redhead. It also supports the regionally significant Osprey.

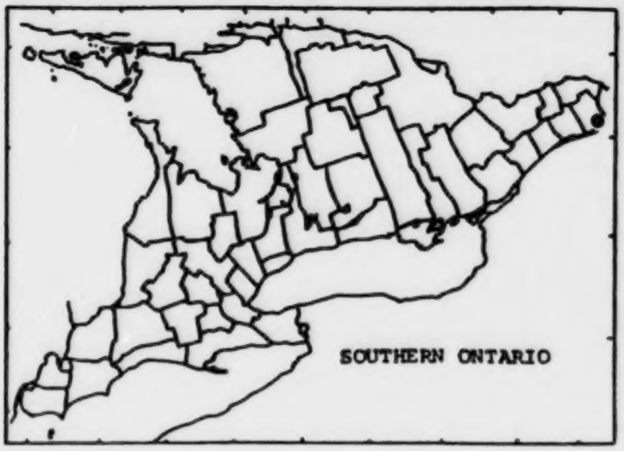
WESTLEY'S CREEK MARSH

Region - Eastern
District - Cornwall
Conservation Authority
- Raisin River

County - Glengarry
Township - Lancaster
Con. I
Lots 21-24

Latitude - 45° 09'
Longitude - 74° 26'

Total Size - 20 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
88 per cent marsh
12 per cent swamp



General Description

This small wetland is located on the St. Lawrence River about ten kilometres northeast of Lancaster. The wetland is mainly riverine along the St. Lawrence River and at the mouth of Westley's Creek. Because of its proximity to the St. Lawrence River, this wetland is of little value for flow stabilization. Soils are primarily poorly-drained silt loam.

There is little interspersion of vegetation forms in the wetland. Much of the area is covered by open water and vegetation occurs mostly in patches. Dominant species include stands of cattails with submergents such as Muskgrass, Water Milfoil, Coontail and waterweeds and areas of Silver Maple, duckweeds, bulrushes, willows and alders mixed with submergents, Reed Canary Grass, Jewelweed, Purple Loosestrife and herbs.

The area is locally important for waterfowl production and regionally significant for the spawning and rearing of Yellow Perch. Bait fish are harvested from the wetland and other resources present include Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles, Muskrats and Mink.

Eighty-four per cent of the wetland is publicly owned. The area is easily accessible, although only at certain times of the year. Fishing and boating are common activities and some hunting takes place. Disturbances to

Westley's Creek Marsh are moderate and include channelization, boating, docks and water pollution.

Special Features

This wetland provides habitat for the provincially significant Double-crested Cormorant, American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Redhead and Black Tern.

WINCHESTER SWAMP

Region - Eastern
District - Cornwall
Conservation Authority
  - South Nation River

County - Dundas
Township - Mountain
Con. IX - XII
Lots 8-22

Latitude - 45° 06′
Longitude - 75° 28′

Total Size - 2063 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
    99 per cent swamp
     1 per cent marsh

General Description

This large contiguous wetland area is located east of the hamlet of Hallville and contains the Mountain Provincial Wildlife Area. Its dominant site type is palustrine, with permanent outflow to Silver Creek, while the secondary type is palustrine with intermittent outflow. Soils are primarily organic. Because of its large size and the lack of detention areas downstream from the wetland, Winchester Bog is of considerable value for flow stabilization and augmentation. This is of particular importance because much of the surrounding area is agricultural land.

Interspersion of vegetation forms is medium in the Winchester Swamp. Dominant plant species include aspens, dogwoods, cattails and willows. The wetland provides good winter habitat for deer. It is also a staging area in spring for several thousand Canada Geese and various species of ducks and is of local significance for waterfowl production, particularly of teal, Mallard and American Black Ducks.

The area is 90 per cent public land. There is a considerable amount of fishing and hunting (particularly for grouse and deer) and the wetland is visited frequently by local clubs and other groups for nature appreciation. Walking trails facilitate these activities.

There are intense human disturbances in some areas of the wetland due to roads, a utility corridor, channelization, drainage, artificial duck ponds and peat extraction. A continuing management program is conducted in the Provincial Wildlife Area to improve the wildlife habitat.

Special Features

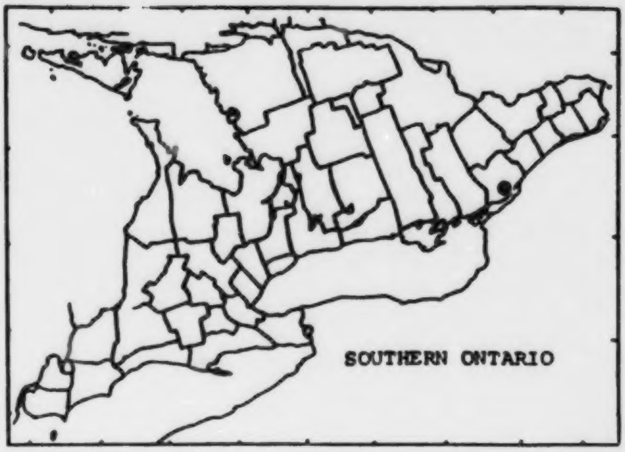
This wetland provides habitat for the provincially significant Red-shouldered Hawk. It is also of value for its hydrological functions.

BROCKVILLE DISTRICT

Wetland	Class	County	page
Buell's Creek Reservoir	1	Leeds	41
Charleston Lake Wetland	1	Leeds	43
Cooligan Marshes	2	Leeds	45
Cranberry Lake - Atkins Lake Wetland (Wolford Bog Part 1)	1	Grenville	47
Grenadier Island Wetland Complex	1	Leeds	49
Hanlan's Bog (Wolford Bog Part 3)	1	Grenville	51
Irish Lake and Creek Wetland	1	Leeds	53
Jones Creek Marsh	2	Leeds	55
Lamb's Pond	1	Leeds	57
Lee's Pond	1	Leeds	59
Leeder's Creek Wetland Complex	1	Leeds	61
Limerick Swamp (Groveton Bog)	1	Grenville	63
Lyndhurst/Singleton Lakes Wetland Complex	2	Leeds	65
The Bog Marsh	3	Leeds	67
Wolford Bog, Part 4	2	Grenville	68

BUELL'S CREEK RESERVOIR

Region - Eastern
District - Brockville
Conservation Authority
- Cataraqui Region



County - Leeds
Township - Elizabethtown
Con. III Lots 2-14
IV 2-8

Latitude - 44° 37′
Longitude - 75° 43′

Total Size - 663 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
67 per cent swamp
33 per cent marsh

General Description

This palustrine wetland is the headwater for Buell's Creek and lies along the northern city limits of Brockville. The reservoir area was established to aid flood control and to augment the low summer flows of the creek on its course through the city. The soils of the reservoir area consist of organic muck and peat material lying on top of layers of dense sand. These lie over limestone bedrock which outcrops in several areas along the west and south sides of the watershed.

Swamp occupies about two-thirds of the wetland with White Cedar, Tamarack, White Birch and Swamp Birch as the dominant trees. A considerable number of dead trees and shrubs also exist in the swamp zone. Marsh vegetation including willow shrubs, bur-reeds and sedges borders the central open water area. The extensive open water zone contains a variety of submergent plant species.

Buell's Creek is a feeding site for Great Blue Herons. The reservoir is a spawning and rearing area for several warm water fish species including Northern Pike, Large-mouth Bass and White Sucker. Fish are harvested from this wetland on a commercial basis both for consumption and bait. Snapping Turtles, Bullfrogs, Muskrats, Beavers and Red Foxes also inhabit the area.

As a managed Conservation Area Buell's Creek Reservoir offers a range of recreational activities including nature appreciation, fishing, canoeing and boating. The area is heavily utilized for educational purposes; its facilities include a seasonally staffed interpretation centre along with shelters, trails and accompanying literature.

Special Features

Much of this wetland, locally known as Back Pond, was created when Buell's Creek was dammed to provide water for a grist mill. After further dam expansion the pond was enlarged to form Buell's Creek Reservoir. The site is now a very popular Conservation Area and a valuable habitat for several provincially significant species including Least Bittern, Red-shouldered Hawk, Black Tern, Marsh Wren and Spotted Turtle. The provincially rare Southern Arrow-wood grows in this area.

CHARLESTON LAKE WETLAND

Region - Eastern
District - Brockville
Conservation Authority
- Cataraqui Region

County - Leeds
Townships - Rear of Leeds,
Lansdowne,
Front of Leeds
and Lansdowne
Con. VI Lot 6 (Fr)
VII 7-17 (Rr)

Latitude - 44° 29'
Longitude - 76° 03'

Total Size - 146 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
58 per cent swamp
42 per cent marsh

General Description

This wetland is found near the southwest shore of Charleston Lake. The swamp and marsh areas at the south end of Runnings Bay extend southward to Mud Bay. Also included in this wetland is a similar stretch of lowland south of Killingbeck Lake. Soils of the wetland are almost entirely inorganic. Poorly drained rockland and clay are the dominant soil types while a small section of organic muck is found at the south end of Runnings Bay.

The wetland is mostly palustrine and lacustrine with a small riverine section located along the creek that connects Killingbeck Lake to Runnings Bay. Due to the abundance of larger detention areas in proximity to the wetland its hydrological attributes are not significant.

Red Maple and Black Ash are the dominant mature trees in the swamp zones. Shrubs such as Buttonbush, Sweet Gale, alders, willows, dogwoods and meadowsweets are also common. Jewelweed, Swamp Loosestrife and mints are common groundcover species in the swamp areas. Marsh areas are dominated by cattails, bur-reeds, shrubs, grasses and sedges. Water Smartweed, St. John's-wort and Swamp Milkweed also occur here. Open water habitats are dominated by Wild Celery, Coontail, Muskgrass, Yellow Water Lily, bladderworts and pondweeds.

Fishing, nature appreciation and boating are common recreational activities in the wetland; this is due largely to the fact that part of the wetland is located in Charleston Lake Provincial Park. The wetland is regularly used for educational purposes and the park has a staffed interpretation centre for this purpose.

Most of the wetland is publicly owned and is easily accessible by water or road. Disturbances to the wetland include roads, buildings and drainage.

Special Features

Charleston Lake wetland provides important habitat for several provincially significant birds including Pied-billed Grebe, Northern Shoveler, Common Tern and Marsh Wren. Southern Arrow-wood, a provincially significant plant, is also found in the wetland. A portion of the wetland is located in Charleston Lake Provincial Park.

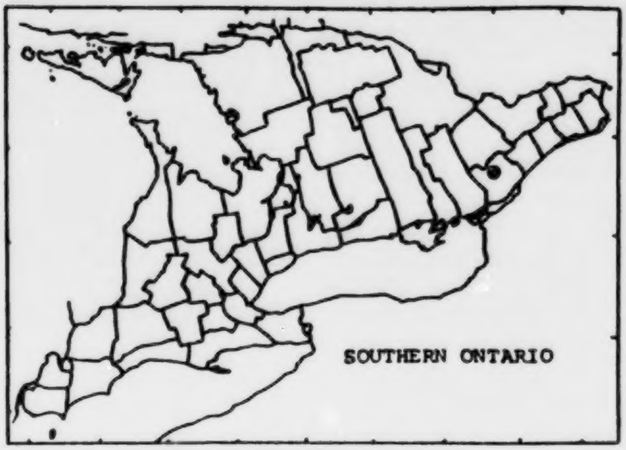
COOLIGAN MARSHES

Region - Eastern
District - Brockville
Conservation Authority
 - Cataraqui Region

County - Leeds
Townships - Bastard
Con. IV Lots 7-14
 V 10-16

Latitude - 44° 42′
Longitude - 76° 08′

Total Size - 934 ha
Class - 2
Type of Wetland -
 81 per cent swamp
 19 per cent marsh



General Description

Cooligan wetland complex is composed of several individual wetlands located just east of Big Rideau Lake and the town of Portland. The dominant site type is riverine with the majority of the complex associated with Cooligan Creek. The remaining area is palustrine. The Cooligan wetland complex contributes significantly towards flow stabilization of Cooligan Creek.

The soils of the wetland complex are predominantly organic with large areas of muck, marsh and peat types. The remaining soils are inorganic and include loam and shallow, poorly drained clay loam.

Swamps comprise the largest portion of the complex area. Mature stands of White Cedar, Red Maple, Hemlock, willows and ashes as well as sections of dead hardwood are found in the swamp zones. The Cooligan marshes are dominated by Swamp Loosestrife, cattails, sedges and grasses. Shrubs such as Sweet Gale, willows and dogwoods provide the dominant cover. The open water sections which cover less than five per cent of the total wetland area contain Coontail, bladderworts and duckweeds.

Along with being a locally significant deer-yard during winter months, Cooligan is also a locally important waterfowl production site. Resources found in the Cooligan Marshes include timber, Bullfrogs and furbearers such as

Beavers, Muskrats, Raccoons and Mink. Fish species having commercial value occur only occasionally here due to the lack of suitable open water habitat.

Very few recreational activities take place in this mostly privately owned wetland. The majority of the complex is easily accessible at most times of the year. Disturbances in the wetland complex include uncontrolled livestock access, a utility corridor and a few roads.

Special Features

This group of wetlands provides habitat for the provincially significant Northern Harrier and Black Tern. The regionally significant Moccasin Flower and Purple-fringed Orchid are also found here.

CRANBERRY LAKE - ATKINS LAKE WETLAND
(WOLFORD BOG PART 1)

Region - Eastern
District - Brockville
Conservation Authority
- Rideau Valley

County - Grenville
Townships - Wolford
Con. V-VIII, IX
Lots 19-30

Latitude - 44° 48′
Longitude - 75° 49′

Total Size - 1975 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
70 per cent swamp
19 per cent marsh
11 per cent bog

General Description

Cranberry Lake Wetland is located just south of the Rideau River and the town of Merrickville. The wetland is classified as riverine. Atkins Lake is the headwater lake and a creek flows from Atkins Lake to Cranberry Lake. Muldoon's Creek, a tributary of Kemptville Creek, is the outflow creek of Cranberry Lake. Muldoon's Creek and the creek between Atkins and Cranberry Lake are surrounded by wetland. With several large detention areas upstream and downstream of Cranberry Lake, its role in flow stabilization is not significant. The soils in this area are chiefly organic; peat is the predominant type.

Swamp covers most of the wetland area and consists primarily of shrubs such as willow, Speckled Alder and Sweet Gale. Robust and narrow-leaved emergent wetland plants dominate the marsh. Much of the surrounding land is wet scrub brush, or woodland containing isolated stands of Red Maple, Silver Maple, Black Ash, White Cedar and elm. Interspersion of vegetation forms is moderate and open water occupies less than one-quarter of the total wetland area. There are several isolated bog areas in the wetland where Leatherleaf, Pitcher Plants and blueberries are common.

The wetland contains various renewable resources including timber, Wild Rice, Bullfrogs and Snapping Turtles. Bait fish are harvested annually from the lake and the wetland supports furbearers such as Beavers, Muskrats, Raccoons, and Mink.

A large section of Cranberry Lake Wetland (65 per cent)is owned by a local hunting club; hunting is understandably the most popular recreational activity in this area. Hunting and fishing are also common in the publicly owned area of the wetland. The only disturbances to the wetland are two utility corridors which cross the area just north and west of the lake.

Special Features

This large riverine wetland supports the provincially rare shrub Southern Arrow-wood, as well as providing breeding and feeding habitat for the provincially significant Black Tern, American Wigeon and River Otter. The area is also highly significant as a stopover site for migratory passerine birds.

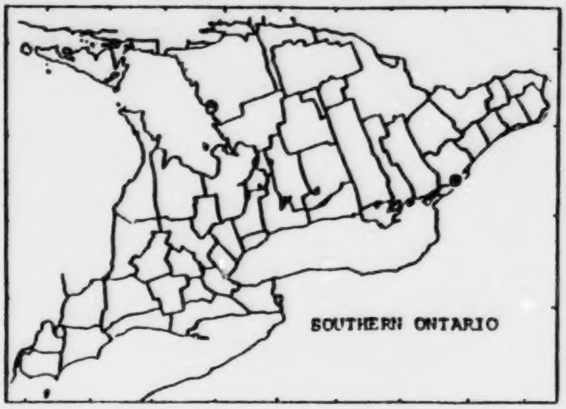
GRENADIER ISLAND WETLAND COMPLEX

Region - Eastern
District - Brockville

County - Leeds
Township - Front of Escott

Latitude - 44° 23′
Longitude - 75° 54′

Total Size - 868 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
95 per cent marsh
5 per cent swamp



General Description

Grenadier Island is located in the St. Lawrence River among the Thousand Islands. Several individual marshes make up this large wetland complex. Grenadier Island is composed mainly of inorganic soils such as sand, clay, gravelly loam and inundated marsh silts. Large areas of scrubby rockland are also common throughout the island. A small area of organic muck is located at the outlet of Brooker's Creek at the northeast tip of the island.

Due to the overwhelming influence of the St. Lawrence River, the Grenadier Island wetlands have little value in floodwater detention. However, they contribute to improving local water quality through short term nutrient removal from surface waters. The marsh vegetation is also instrumental in erosion control by helping to combat the destructive effects of waves.

The marshlands are dominated by Jewelweed, cattails, sedges and bulrushes. Shrubs such as willow and meadow-sweet line the marsh borders. Open water occupies more than 75 per cent of the entire wetland complex with vegetation occurring in patches or diffuse open stands. Water Milfoil, water lilies and waterweeds are abundant in these zones.

Other significant features of the wetland are a Great Blue Heron colony and spawning and rearing grounds for Muskellunge, bass and pike. The area is also a locally significant waterfowl production site.

Several large sections of Grenadier Island are part of St. Lawrence Islands National Park. Recreational activities occurring on Grenadier Island include hunting, fishing, nature appreciation, canoeing and boating. The wetlands are utilized frequently for environmental education purposes by Environment Canada Parks. A system of self-guiding trails and observation points exists on the island for this purpose. Grenadier Island is easily accessible by boat from the mainland, and a dry weather gravel road runs nearly the full length of the island.

Special Features

This wetland complex is home the provincially significant plant species Southern Arrow-wood. The island's wetlands also serve as a regionally significant waterfowl staging area. Environment Canada's Squaw Island archaeological site, which is located just offshore, gives the area some historical importance.

HANLAN'S BOG (WOLFORD BOG, PART 3)

Region - Eastern
District - Brockville
Conservation Authority
- Rideau Valley

County - Grenville
Township - Wolford
Con. I-V Lots 1-6
Township - Oxford
Con. IV-VII Lots 1-3

Latitude - 44° 52'
Longitude - 75° 45'

Total Size - 1547 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
72 per cent swamp
26 per cent bog
2 per cent marsh

General Description

Hanlan's Bog, a single contiguous wetland containing areas of bog, marsh and swamp, is located just east of Merrickville and the Rideau River. Its site type is palustrine with a permanent outflow. Kemptville Creek drains the wetland from its southern end and Dale's Creek drains the northern portion of the wetland and gradually flows into the Rideau River. The wetland contains a small central open-water body called Lisson's Lake. Areas associated with Dale's Creek and the drains to the east are seasonally inundated. The wetland has considerable value in flow augmentation as it comprises 35 per cent of the total catchment basin area.

Swamp covers a large area of the wetland and consists mostly of deciduous and coniferous trees. Dead tree and shrub zones are also common. Conifers, low shrubs, and herbs dominate the bog vegetation forms. The small marsh section is composed primarily of narrow-leaved emergents and herbs. Open water occupies only a small portion of the wetland.

Resources found in Hanlan's Bog include timber, Bullfrogs, Raccoons, Beavers and Mink. Lisson's Lake is known to be a fish spawning and rearing site, and waterfowl production in the wetland is considered locally significant.

Recreational and educational activities occurring in the bog include duck hunting on Lisson's Lake and deer-yard studies by school groups. Sixty per cent of the wetland is under public ownership.

The majority of the wetland is relatively untouched, the only disturbance being a small-scale peat mining operation.

Special Features

This large, diverse wetland provides habitat for the provincially significant plant species, Southern Arrow-wood. The regionally significant plants, Pitcher Plant and sundew, are also found here. In addition, Hanlan's Bog contains an important deer yard.

IRISH LAKE AND CREEK WETLAND

Region - Eastern
District - Brockville
Conservation Authority
- Rideau Valley

County - Leeds
Township - Kitley
Con. IV Lots 5-11
V 10-13
VI 11-14
VII 13-20
VIII 17-20
- Wolford
Con. I Lots 25-30

Latitude - 44° 45′
Longitude - 75° 57′

Total Size - 1101 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
70 per cent swamp
26 per cent marsh
4 per cent fen

General Description

This wetland is located on the upper reaches of Irish Creek, a tributary of the Rideau River. Irish Lake wetland contains a large (2.5 km long) open water section with a single outlet at the north end and several smaller streams entering it from the south. The entire lake and associated water courses are contained in a large basin of peat. The surrounding area is abandoned farmland and deciduous forest.

Swamp makes up the greatest portion of the wetland and is, to a large extent, carr or thicket swamp. Sweet Gale, Swamp Birch and willows dominate this zone. Isolated mature stands of White Cedar, Black Ash, Red Maple and Tamarack are found scattered throughout the thicket swamp. The marsh area is dominated by Swamp Loosestrife, cattails, bur-reeds and bulrushes. The small fen section is rich in Bog Rosemary, Shrubby Cinquefoil and chokeberries. Open water areas support Coontail, White Water Lily, Pickerelweed and pondweeds. Interspersion of vegetation communities is high in this wetland. The edge, or transition zone, between dominant vegetation forms is also very diverse.

The Great Blue Heron traditionally uses this wetland as a feeding area. Suitable cover exists for rabbits, hares, squirrels and Porcupines during winter. Irish Lake is locally significant for the production of waterfowl.

Disturbances to the area include localized drainage, a utility corridor and livestock grazing in the wetland.

Special Features

Irish Lake Wetland is an area of highly diverse aquatic and terrestrial habitats. Large areas of open water, swamp, marsh and fen can all be found here. Provincially significant species inhabiting the wetland include Black Tern, Marsh Wren and Marsh Hawk.

JONES CREEK MARSH

Region - Eastern
District - Brockville
Conservation Authority
- Cataraqui Region

County - Leeds
Township - Front of Yonge
Con. B.F. Lots 5-10
I 7-10

Latitude - 44° 30'
Longitude - 76° 49'

Total Size - 140 ha
Class - 2
Type of Wetland -
95 per cent marsh
5 per cent swamp

General Description

This riverine marsh is located just south of Highway 401 and extends to the creek mouth at the St. Lawrence River. The wetland includes two meandering tributaries (Marsh and Mud Creeks) which join Jones Creek. A portion of the south shore of Jones Creek borders on the St. Lawrence Parks Commission's Browns Bay Park. The primary hydrological function of Jones Creek Marsh is its ability to detain flood waters.

Floristically, the marsh consists of a wide band of robust emergents bordering the slow-moving creeks. Cattails, bulrushes and bur-reeds dominate the zone of emergents which gradually gives way to shrubs and mature trees. In the vicinity of this wetland is one of the few sites in Canada, outside of the Lake Erie shore, where the shrub-like Dwarf Chinquapin Oak can be found. Other provincially significant plants in the vicinity are Panicled Hawkweed and Pitch Pine. A small swamp composed of shrubs and sedges is located in the transition area between the cattail marsh and the woody vegetation. Large expanses of sedge meadow are common in this wetland. Hydrophytes are abundant along river courses with Muskgrass, Coontail, Water Milfoil and pondweeds dominating. Floating vegetation includes both White and Yellow Water Lilies.

The marsh produces resources such as Wild Rice, Bullfrogs and Snapping Turtles. Furbearers found in the wetland include Muskrats, Beavers and Raccoons. Baitfish and/or coarse fish are abundant during at least part of the year. Fishing, hunting and nature study are regular activities at Jones Creek. St. Lawrence Parks' canoe hikes frequently include this marsh.

Human disturbances appear to be absent from the area which is easily accessible by road or water. Ownership is mostly public.

Special Features

Leeds County, including Jones Creek Wetland, is one of the few areas in Canada where the provincially significant Black Rat Snake can be found. Other Provincially significant animals in this wetland include the Marsh Wren and River Otter. The regionally significant Blanding's Turtle is also found here.

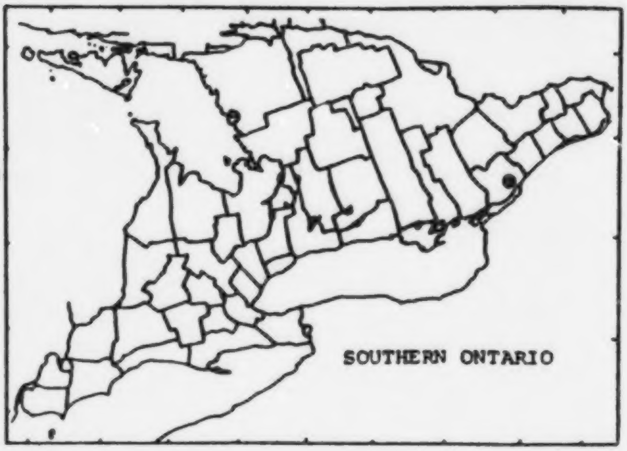
LAMB'S POND

Region - Eastern
District - Brockville
Conservation Authority
- Cataraqui Region

County - Leeds
Township - Elizabethtown
Con. 6 Lots 16-23

Latitude - 44° 39'
Longitude - 75° 48'

Total Size - 175 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
60 per cent marsh
40 per cent swamp



General Description

Lamb's Pond is located upon the Lanark Plain just south of the village of New Dublin. This small pond and the associated wetland serves as the headwater for Golden Creek. Lamb's Pond augments the flow of Golden Creek during summer periods and contributes moderately towards detention of flood waters during times of high flow.

The surficial geology of Lamb's Pond wetland consists of a shallow inorganic layer of loam lying over limestone in the southern portion, and well-decomposed organic muck in the northern portion. Organic soils are prevalent in the wetland, covering 80 per cent of the total area.

Most of the swamp is composed of Red Maple, willow dogwood and alder. Areas of shrub-rich thicket swamp also occur with Sweet Gale, Swamp Birch, sedges and sphagnum mosses dominating the flora. A large zone of marsh surrounds the central pond and stream courses. Sweet Gale, bulrushes and sedges are abundant in this community. The presence of vegetation commonly associated with bogs such as Swamp Birch, sundews and sphagnum mosses reflects the acidic nature of the northern portion of the wetland. Interspersion of vegetation forms is low with a relatively small and restricted transition zone.

Conifers such as White Cedar and Tamarack are present along the wetland border, providing good winter cover for rabbits, grouse and other small game. Lamb's Pond is a foraging site for the Great Blue Heron and provides spawning and rearing habitat for Brown Bullhead and White Sucker. The wetland supports furbearers such as Beavers, Muskrats and Raccoons. Bullfrogs and Snapping Turtles are also found in the area. Baitfish and coarse fish are currently being harvested from Lamb's Pond.

Hunting is the dominant recreational activity occurring in the wetland. The main disturbances are the county roads which completely surround the area, and a quarry located at the southwest end of the pond.

Special Features

This palustrine wetland supports two provincially significant birds, the Northern Harrier and Marsh Wren. The insect-eating sundew is found in the more acidic marsh areas.

LEE'S POND

Region - Eastern
District - Brockville
Conservation Authority
- Cataraqui Region

County - Leeds
Township - Elizabethtown
Con. IV Lots 32,34,35
V 32-35

Latitude - 44° 35′
Longitude - 75° 50′

Total Size - 339 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
76 per cent swamp
24 per cent marsh

General Description

Lee's Pond wetland is located 12 kilometres west of Brockville and includes not only Lee's Pond but also a low-lying area to the north. It is bisected by a small channel which connects the pond to Centre Lake towards the northwest.

Lee's Pond is a typical palustrine wetland characterized by intermittent stream inflow and outflow. It is a headwater for Lyn Creek which exits from the pond's south end and flows through the town of Lyn, three kilometres downstream. The predominant soil type is muck. Mineral soils, consisting mostly of loam, make up a small portion of the wetland.

Swamp, mostly in shrub-rich thickets, covers over 75 per cent of the wetland. Swamp Milkweed, willows, alders and ferns are common in this zone. The marsh portion of the wetland at the west end of the pond has Sweet Gale, Wild Rice, cattails and sedges as the dominant flora. The open water sections contain Bigleaf Pondweed, Wild Celery, water lilies and duckweeds.

Resources found at Lee's Pond include Wild Rice, Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles, Muskrats, Beavers, Mink and Raccoons. Baitfish are harvested from the pond and the wetland supports a colony of the Great Blue Herons. Lee's Pond is regionally significant as a waterfowl staging area and is heavily hunted in the fall. Some fishing also occurs. A self-guiding trail exists along the east side of the wetland and provides observation points for viewing the wildlife of the area.

Uncontrolled access by livestock, resulting in localized water pollution, is the most obvious disturbance in the area.

Special Features

This large wetland harbors several provincially significant species including the Redhead Duck and Red-shouldered Hawk.

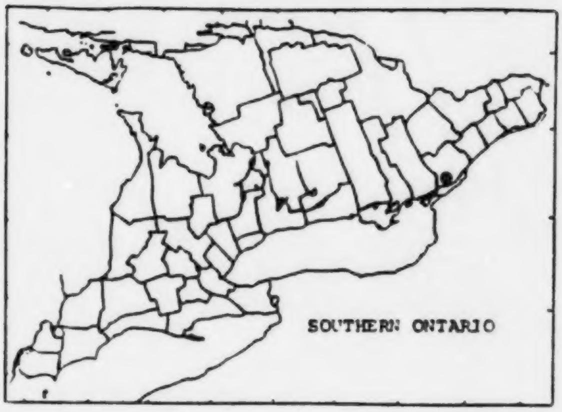
LEEDER'S CREEK WETLAND COMPLEX

Region - Eastern
District - Brockville
Conservation Authority
- Cataraqui Region

County - Leeds
Township - Front of Escott

Latitude - 44° 31'
Longitude - 75° 59'

Total Size - 410 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
61 per cent swamp
39 per cent marsh



General Description

This wetland complex, is composed of 19 individual wetlands, is located just east of Charleston Lake. The dominant site type is riverine along Leeder's Creek; the secondary type is palustrine. Because of the many detention areas located both above and below the wetland the area does not contribute significantly to flow stabilization. Leeder's Creek Wetland is hydrologically connected to the nearby Charleston Lake, providing habitat linkage for wildlife.

Less than one quarter of the wetland is covered by open water. Vegetation of the marsh area is dominated by Water Milfoil, Coontail, willows, sedges, grasses, pondweeds, duckweeds and water lilies. Swamp vegetation is dominated by trees and shrubs such as Buttonbush, maples, willows and dogwoods and floating and submergent plants such as Coontail, duckweeds and waterweeds.

The area surrounding Leeder's Creek contains a high diversity of habitats of value to wildlife utilizing the wetland. The area provides good winter cover for grouse, rabbits and hares as well as fish spawning and rearing habitat. There is currently a large colony of Great Blue Herons in the wetland. The area is locally significant for waterfowl production and regionally significant for waterfowl staging, particularly of Mallards and American Black Ducks.

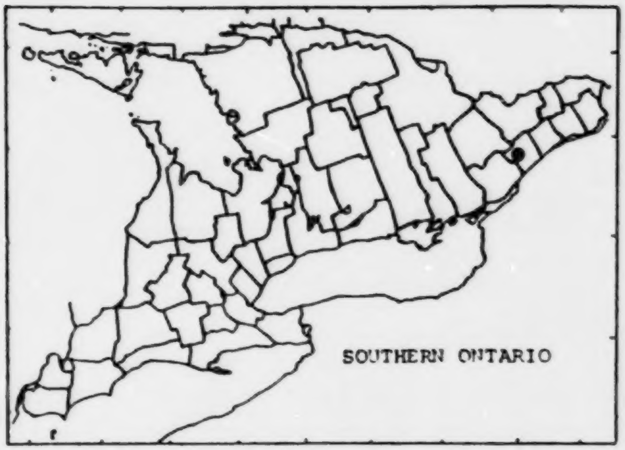
Thirty-seven per cent of Leeder's Creek wetland is privately owned. Hunting intensity in the area is high; fishing and boating activities are of moderate intensity. Wild Rice, Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles and furbearers such as Muskrats, Raccoons and Beavers are some of the resources present in the wetland. Bait fish are currently being harvested from the area.

There is a moderate level of disturbance affecting Leeder's Creek due to roads, a utility corridor and drainage.

Special Features

This wetland provides habitat for the Marsh Wren and River Otter, both provincially significant species. The Osprey occurs regularly at Leeder's Creek. The wetland also supports the provincially rare plant Southern Arrow-wood.

LIMERICK SWAMP
(GROVETON BOG)



Region - Eastern
District - Brockville
Conservation Authority
- South Nation

County - Grenville
Townships - Oxford
Con. X Lots 14-18
Township - Augusta
Con. VIII Lots 1-6
Township - Edwardsburgh
Con. X Lots 25-35
IX 27-36
VIII 24-37

Latitude - 44° 51′
Longitude - 75° 36′

Total Size - 2574.7 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
92 per cent swamp
7 per cent bog
1 per cent marsh

General Description

Limerick Swamp is located within the Eastern Moraine physiographic unit. The area is locally referred to as Groveton Bog because of its proximity to the town of Groveton. This palustrine wetland comprises 41 per cent of its 63 square kilometre catchment basin and contributes significantly to the augmentation and stabilization of local river and stream flow.

Limerick Swamp consists primarily of a vast swamp which is composed of many distinct vegetation communities. These range from mature hardwood communities of Black Ash and Red Maple to a shrub-rich thicket swamp dominated by willows, meadow-sweets and alders. The bog community consists of Black Spruce, Winterberry, Leatherleaf and sphagnum mosses. A cattail and shrub marsh is confined to only one per cent of the total wetland area. Transition zones between different communities are abundant in this highly diverse wetland. These zones are important for wildlife as many species are dependent upon more than one habitat type. Open water areas make up only a small portion of the total wetland; the area is therefore of little importance in waterfowl staging and production. Limerick Swamp supports a Great Blue Heron breeding colony and provides locally important winter habitat for the White-tailed Deer.

A large proportion of the area contains harvestable maples, ashes and cedars, representing significant cash value. Limerick Swamp is also a lucrative trapping area as it produces Muskrats, Beavers and Raccoons. Bullfrogs are also abundant.

Recreational activities which take place in the wetland include hunting and nature appreciation. This area is utilized by Brockville public schools for educational exercises. Although it is relatively isolated from major population centers, the wetland is easily accessible by road.

A section of the Canadian Pacific Railway bisects the northeastern portion of the swamp and several drainage canals have been constructed. Other disturbances include a utility corridor, roads and isolated sources of agriculturally-related water pollution.

Special Features

Limerick Swamp provides a breeding and feeding site for the provincially significant Black Tern. Significant plant species found growing here include the Southern Arrow-wood and Pitcher Plant.

LYNDHURST/SINGLETON LAKES WETLAND COMPLEX

Region - Eastern
District - Brockville
Conservation Authority
 - Cataraqui Region

County - Leeds
Township - Rear of Leeds & Lansdowne

Con.	Lots
VIII	1-3
IX	1-5
X	3-7
XI	6-10

Latitude - 44° 32'
Longitude - 76° 06'

Total Size - 137 ha
Class - 2
Type of Wetland -
59 per cent marsh
40 per cent swamp
1 per cent fen

General Description

Lyndhurst/Singleton Lakes wetland complex, composed of eight separate wetlands ranging in size from 0.5 to 98.8 ha, is situated just east of the town of Lyndhurst. The wetlands are associated with several bodies of water including Little Lake, Lyndhurst Lake, Singleton Lake, Singleton Creek and several seasonally inundated ponds. The dominant site type is riverine; the remainder of the complex is equally distributed between palustrine and lacustrine sites.

The surficial geology of the complex is predominantly inorganic with poorly drained rockland, clay and loam soil types. Organic muck deposits are confined to the northeast side of Singleton Lake.

Interspersion of vegetation forms is moderate in this complex. Marshes are dominated by Swamp Loosestrife, Jewelweed, cattails and bur-reeds. Red Maple, Balsam Fir, Sweet Gale, Buttonbush, dead hardwoods, alders and ferns are the common swamp species. Open water areas occur in a pattern of small ponds and embayments; they are dominated by Coontail, Water Milfoil, pondweeds, duckweeds and water lilies. The fen is composed of Leatherleaf shrubs and sedges and some Joe-Pye-weed.

Additional features of the Lyndhurst/Singleton Lakes complex include a small Great Blue Heron colony and an abundance of good winter cover suitable for small game. Wild Rice, Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles, Muskrats, Raccoons and Beavers are some of the wetland's potential economic resources. Fish are commercially harvested from the complex.

Most of the typical wetland-based recreational activities such as hunting, fishing and boating/canoeing occur at the Lyndhurst/Singleton Lakes wetland. Ownership is distributed between the public and private sectors and access is generally easy by way of water or roads.

Special Features

This small diverse wetland complex provides a habitat for the provincially rare plant Arrow Arum.

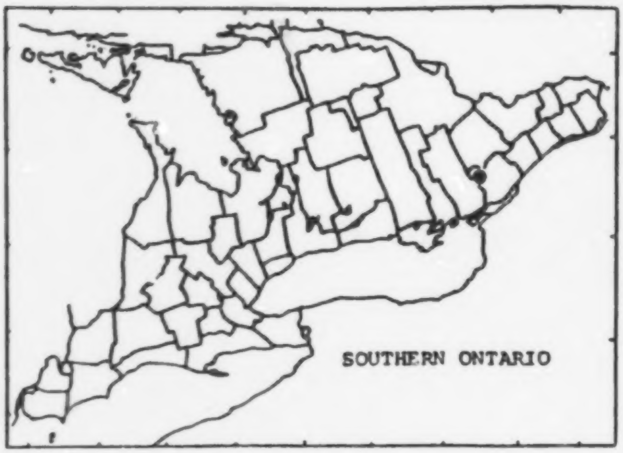
THE BOG MARSH

Region - Eastern
District - Brockville
Conservation Authority
    - Cataraqui Region

County - Leeds
Township - South Crosby

Latitude - 44° 40′
Longitude - 76° 17′

Total Size - 240 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
    92.6 per cent marsh
    7.4 per cent swamp



General Description

This lacustrine marsh is situated on an enclosed bay at the northeast end of Newboro Lake. The Bog marsh was created in the early 1800s when the water level in Newboro Lake rose due to the construction of the Rideau Canal. Sucker Creek enters the marsh just below the town of Crosby.

The marsh consists primarily of a large open water section and a bordering fringe of cattails, sedges and grasses. Small swampy zones exist near the mouth of Sucker Creek.

The Bog marsh contains furbearers such as Muskrats and Raccoons. Fishing is prohibited in the marsh because it is a provincial fish sanctuary. This publicly owned wetland is a very popular hunting area. Access is relatively easy throughout the year.

Disturbances affecting the marsh include uncontrolled access of grazing livestock and agricultural waste runoff.

Special Features

The Bog Marsh provides habitat for the provincially significant Black Tern and Marsh Wren as well as the regionally significant Osprey. The wetland is also a regionally important waterfowl staging area.

WOLFORD BOG, PART 4

Region - Eastern
District - Brockville
Conservation Authority
- Rideau Region

County - Grenville
Township - Wolford
Con. IV-VIII
Lots 9-16

Latitude - 44^{o} 49′
Longitude - 75^{o} 46′

Total Size - 1413 ha
Class - 2
Type of Wetland -
95 per cent swamp
5 per cent marsh

General Description

Contrary to its name, Wolford Bog is actually a large palustrine swamp. It is located in the northwestern part of Grenville County approximately ten kilometres south of Merrickville. The wetland is entirely surrounded by farmland consisting mostly of abandoned agricultural fields with some row crops and pastures.

A number of permanent and intermittent streams wind their way through the swamp; several of them form a single channel which drains from Cranberry Lake, another significant wetland located two and one-half kilometres to the southwest. Unlike most swamps Wolford Bog is often flooded in the spring; this results in a number of pools and additional channels being formed. Dry relict pools are also apparent late in the season.

Wolford Bog includes both mature forest swamp and thicket swamp or shrub carr. The latter occupies 45 per cent of the wetland area and is characterized by thick growths of willows, dogwoods and alders. Forest swamp species include White Cedar, Black Spruce and Tamarack as well as the deciduous Black Ash and willows. Various sedges and herbs are found associated with the shrubs and trees. A very small portion of the wetland is marsh; this is confined to the more permanent pools and streams. Cattails are the dominant vegetation in the marsh.

Dense stands of White Cedar throughout Wolford Bog make it important as a deer-yard. This wetland is locally significant for waterfowl staging and waterfowl production. The wetland also supports a colony of Great Blue Heron. Resources found in Wolford Bog include Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles and furbearers such as Beavers, Raccoons and Coyotes. A limited amount of timber is also present.

Hunting for ducks and deer is the major recreational activity in the wetland. Human impact on Wolford Bog includes roads and drainage associated with the adjacent agricultural land. A utility right-of-way crosses the centre of the swamp.

Special Features

The provincially rare Southern Arrow-wood shrub and provincially significant River Otter are found in this wetland. Wolford Bog also provides regionally significant habitat for the White-tailed Deer.

NAPANEE DISTRICT

Wetland	Class	County	page
Albury Swamp	3	Prince Edward	73
Big Island Marsh	3	Prince Edward	75
Big Sand Bay	2	Prince Edward	77
Cressy Swamp	2	Prince Edward	79
Fish Lake Wetland	1	Prince Edward	81
Huyck's Bay	2	Prince Edward	83
Lake Consecon Marsh	1	Prince Edward	85
Presqu'ile Bay Marsh	1	Northumberland	87
Sawguin Creek Marsh	2	Prince Edward	89
Weller's Bay Wetland 1	3	Prince Edward	91
West Lake	2	Prince Edward	93

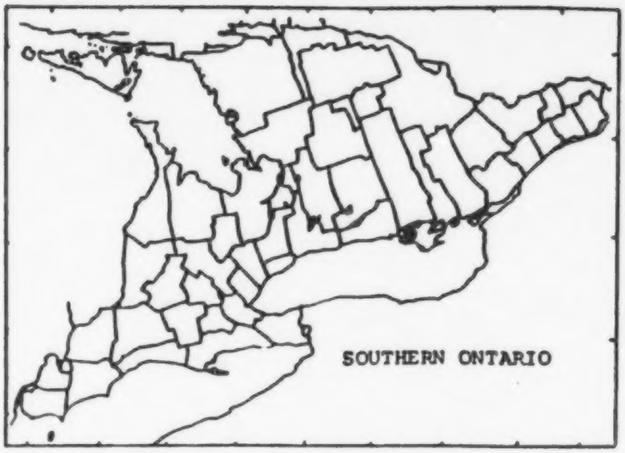
ALBURY SWAMP

Region - Eastern
District - Napanee
Conservation Authority
- Prince Edward Region

County - Prince Edward
Township - Ameliasburgh
Con. I
Lots 89-99

Latitude - 44° 03'
Longitude - 77° 31'

Total Size - 435 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
99 per cent swamp
1 per cent marsh



General Description

This large wetland is located southeast of the city of Trenton near the south shore of the Bay of Quinte. The site type is palustrine. Albury Swamp is hydrologically connected by Sawguin Creek to Sawguin Creek Marsh. The Albury Swamp comprises 40 per cent of its 11 square kilometre catchment basin, giving it some value for flow stabilization. This is particularly important because the hamlet of Albury is located along its outflow. Less than a quarter of the wetland is covered by open water. Soils are primarily organic, with some imperfectly drained sandy and clay loams.

Interspersion of vegetation forms in the wetland is moderate. The area is composed mainly of large swamp regions of Silver Maple, Black and Red Ash, Jewelweed, Sensitive Fern, White Birch, alders, grasses and horsetails interspersed with marsh areas of Pickerelweed, cattails, grasses, spike-rushes, horsetails and sedges. There are also patches of Labrador Tea, Showy Lady's Slipper, Winterberry and sphagnum mosses. Since these are typical bog species their presence may indicate that these areas were once bogs.

Albury Swamp provides good winter cover for deer and locally significant habitat for waterfowl production. Great Blue Herons are known to nest in a northeastern portion of the wetland. The wetland contains a number of resources, including mature trees, Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles and furbearers such as Muskrats, Raccoons, Beavers, Mink, Coyotes and Red Foxes.

The wetland is all privately owned. There are some disturbances to Albury Swamp including a causeway, clearing near the north boundary and some water pollution.

Special Features

The Albury Swamp provides habitat for the provincially significant bird the Northern Harrier.

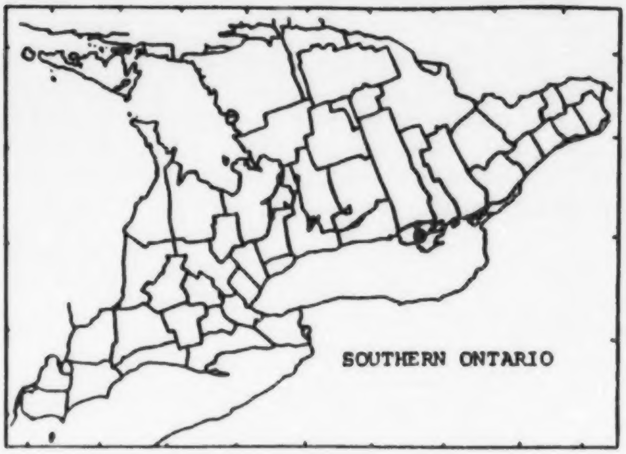
BIG ISLAND MARSH

Region - Eastern
District - Napanee
Conservation Authority
- Prince Edward Region

County - Prince Edward
Township - Sophiasburg
Con. I
Lots 1-17, 28-50

Latitude - 44° 06′
Longitude - 77° 13′

Total Size - 772 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
99 per cent marsh
1 per cent swamp



General Description

Big Island Marsh is the second largest marsh in Prince Edward County. It is adjacent and very similar to Sawguin Creek Marsh, the largest marsh in the region. It lies over a bed of poorly drained limestone just north of the Prince Edward Escarpment. The marsh separates Big Island from the remainder of the Prince Edward peninsula. The Big Island Marsh borders on Lake Ontario via the Bay of Quinte. Because of its relationship with these bodies of water the marsh has little value for flow stabilization.

Floristically Big Island Marsh is very similar to Sawguin Creek Marsh; it is dominated by cattails but clumps of bulrushes, reedgrasses, burreeds and arrowheads are found throughout. Water Milfoil, pondweeds and bladderworts form the dominant submergent vegetation. Formerly the marsh was more diverse and productive. However, eutrophication of the waters due to runoff from nearby agricultural lands has led to conditions favoring the establishment of vast cattail-dominated areas and poor interspersion of habitats.

Wetland furbearers such as Muskrats, Mink, Beavers and Raccoons are present. The marsh is a regionally significant waterfowl staging area used mainly by dabbling ducks.

Roads traverse the length of the marsh on either side and access is relatively easy. A moderate amount of hunting and fishing occurs in the marsh. Continued eutrophication of the marsh water threatens to decrease its diversity even more; in this respect the marsh is very vulnerable to human influence.

Special Features

Big Island Marsh is a very large lacustrine wetland. A number of provincially significant species are found here including the Black Tern, Caspian Tern, Marsh Wren and Sedge Wren. Parts of the wetland and nearby waters of the Bay of Quinte are significant spawning and rearing areas for pike, perch and bass.

BIG SAND BAY

Region - Eastern
District - Napanee
Conservation Authority
-Prince Edward Region

County - Prince Edward
Township - South Marysburg

Latitude - 43° 55'
Longitude - 76° 56'

Total Size - 195 ha
Class - 2
Type of Wetland -
52 per cent marsh
48 per cent swamp

General Description

The soils surrounding Big Sand Bay are characterized by a very shallow overburden lying over fragmented, flat bedrock. Because of the flat nature of the bedrock, it is poorly drained and susceptible to becoming waterlogged and flooded. This has led to the formation of the wetland at Big Sand Bay.

The wetland is separated from Lake Ontario by a beach ridge. Next to the ridge is a marshy area dominated by Blue-joint grass. Cattails are not as common as in other wetlands in the county, probably as a result of the small amount of nutrient runoff from the impoverished soils in the surrounding area. The marsh grades into shrub swamps dominated by Buttonbush in wet areas and dogwoods in drier places. A swamp forest dominated by Black Ash, Silver Maple and willows separates the remainder of the wetland from surrounding upland areas.

Prince Edward Peninsula and Prince Edward Point, of which Big Sand Bay is a large part, act as a funnel for birds migrating both north and south. It is one of the major migration routes across the lower Great Lakes. Many rare and significant bird species have been recorded at the wetlands of Big Sand Bay.

A small proportion of the area (10 per cent) is privately owned. The remainder is public land. Access to most of the wetland is unrestricted but requires a moderate amount of effort. Some hunting and boating activities occur in the wetland and the nearby waters of the lake.

Special Features

This large lacustrine wetland is home to a number of provincially significant species: Least Bittern, King Rail, Caspian Tern, Black Tern and Marsh Wren are known to breed and/or feed here. Arrow Arum, a provincially rare plant species, also occurs here. Prince Edward Point, including Big Sand Bay, is a very important stopover for migrating passerine birds, shorebirds and waterfowl.

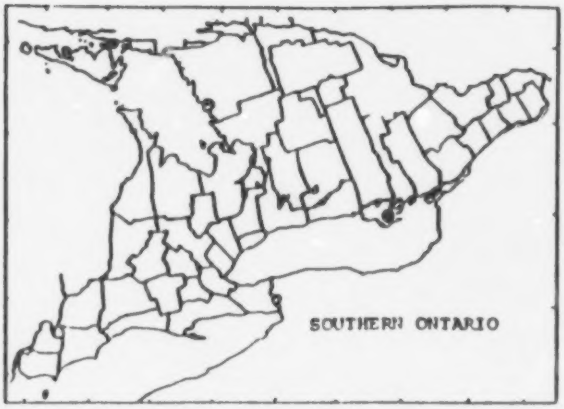
CRESSY SWAMP

Region - Eastern
District - Napanee
Conservation Authority
- Prince Edward Region

County - Prince Edward
Township - North Marysburgh
Con. Lakeside Lots 7-12
Bayside 32-36

Latitude - 44° 04'
Longitude - 76° 53'

Total Size - 104 ha
Class - 2
Type of Wetland -
64 per cent swamp
36 per cent marsh



General Description

This riverine wetland is located on Cressy Point, the most northeastern point of Prince Edward Peninsula in the Bay of Quinte. Because of the effects of the nearby Bay of Quinte and the wetland's small size, the wetland is of little value for flow stabilization. Since trees and shrubs are the dominant vegetation forms on the shoreline and in the floodplain of the wetland, they are valuable for reducing erosion when water levels are high. Soils are chiefly organic, with some mineral types.

There is a high diversity of vegetation communities at Cressy Swamp, and these communities are well interspersed. Marsh regions are composed primarily of cattails, pondweeds and other submergents. Swamp vegetation consists of stands of Silver Maple, willow and ash mixed with Jewelweed, grasses, sedges, horsetails, nightshades and bedstraws. These are interspersed with areas of thicket swamp vegetation (willow, meadowsweet and dogwood). Less than one quarter of the wetland is covered by open water.

Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles and furbearers such as Muskrats, Raccoons, Mink, Red Foxes and Coyotes are found within Cressy Swamp. The wetland is all privately owned.

There are a few localized disturbances to Cressy Swamp including roads, a causeway, drainage and clearing and some water pollution.

Special Features

Cressy Swamp provides feeding and breeding habitat for the provincially significant Black Tern and Marsh Wren. The area is also important for its high biological diversity and productivity.

FISH LAKE WETLAND

Region - Eastern
District - Napanee
Conservation Authority
- Prince Edward Region

County - Prince Edward
Township - Sophiasburgh
Con. I Lots 28-33
II 22-38

Latitude - 44° 05'
Longitude - 77° 10'

Total Size - 467 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
66 per cent swamp
34 per cent marsh

General Description

The Fish Lake Wetland is a single, contiguous wetland located about 10 kilometres northwest of the town of Picton. The dominant site type is lacustrine; the secondary type is riverine along Demorestville Creek. Much of the wetland is covered by open water. About 45 per cent of the soils are organic and the remainder are shallow stony loam, clay loam and undesignated soil types.

There is little interspersion of vegetation forms in this wetland. Large swamp areas, dominated by Silver Maple, ash and elm, surround a central region of marsh and open water dominated by Coontail and Water Milfoil and interspersed with patches of cattails.

Fish Lake Wetland provides a feeding area for the Great Blue Heron and Black Tern as well as good winter cover for deer. The area provides spawning and rearing habitat for baitfish and is of regional importance for waterfowl staging and production. It is also important for the production of furbearers such as Muskrats, Raccoons, Beavers and Mink. Other resources contained in the area include Wild Rice, Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles and a stand of mature trees. In addition, Bullhead and baitfish are harvested from the wetland.

Fish Lake is entirely privately owned. There are a few localized disturbances to the wetland including roads and the manipulation of the wetland's water level.

Special Features

This wetland provides habitat for the provincially significant Black Tern, Marsh Wren and Jefferson Salamander and supports the provincially rare plant Arrow Arum. Drumlins and a deep bedrock basin are unusual geological features here. The site is also considered a provincially significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI).

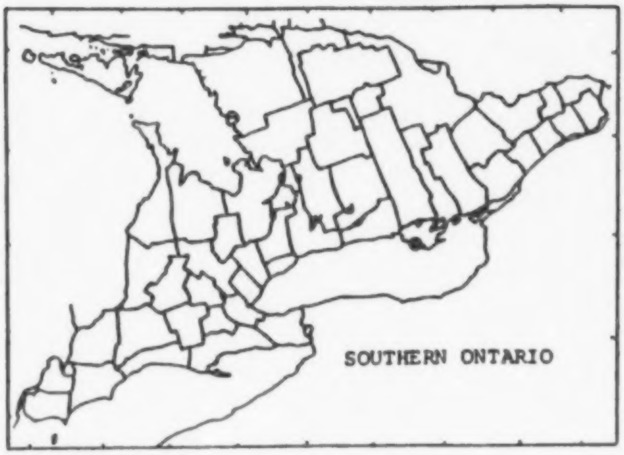
HUYCK'S BAY

Region - Eastern
District - Napanee
Conservation Authority
- Prince Edward Region

County - Prince Edward
Township - Hillier
Con. I
Lots 19-30

Latitude - 43° 57'
Longitude - 77° 28'

Total Size - 245 ha
Class - 2
Type of Wetland -
56 per cent swamp
44 per cent marsh



General Description

Huyck's Bay is located on the southwest shore of Prince Edward County and is separated from Lake Ontario by a narrow baymouth bar. The wetland is mainly riverine along Hubb's Creek which enters the bay from the east. Lake Ontario's hydrological influence over Huyck's Bay is significant. Soils are primarily organic marsh muck types although some isolated areas of clay loam are also present. Farmland surrounds most of the wetland.

Shrubs such as willow, meadowsweet, dogwood and alder dominate the swamp portion of the wetland along with isolated stands of Silver Maple, White Cedar, Tamarack and ash. Buttonbush, Jewelweed, Sensitive Fern and sedges are also abundant. Cattails and Reed Canary Grass dominate the marsh community. Open water occupies only a small portion of the total area, occurring mostly in small ponds. Typically the ponds contain a variety of submergents including Water Milfoil, Tapegrass, Crisp Pondweed, bladderworts and waterweeds.

Huyck's Bay serves as an important feeding site for Great Blue Herons and is of local significance in waterfowl production. Resources present include Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles, Wild Rice and some timber. Furbearers such as Muskrats, Raccoons and Mink also inhabit the area. Commercial fish are abundant during at least part of the year.

The majority of the wetland is privately owned. Disturbances to Huyck's Bay include water pollution due to agricultural wastes, roads and several artificial dikes which restrict the flow of the north branch of Hubb's Creek.

Special Features

Huyck's Bay wetland provides habitat for the provincially significant Black Tern and Marsh Wren. The bay is also of local significance as a Northern Pike spawning site.

LAKE CONSECON MARSH

Region - Eastern
District - Napanee
Conservation Authority
- Prince Edward Region

County - Prince Edward
Township - Hillier
Con. V Lots 102-107
Township - Ameliasburgh
Con. IV Lots 102-106

Latitude - 43° 59'
Longitude - 77° 30'

Total Size - 189 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
92 per cent marsh
8 per cent swamp

General Description

Lake Consecon Marsh is a shallow wetland at the west end of Prince Edward Peninsula. Consecon Lake and several other wetlands, including the Big Swamp, drain into Lake Consecon Marsh. The Big Swamp is associated with the contact between two limestone beds sloping gently south towards Lake Ontario from the Prince Edward Escarpment. Where the two beds meet they form a low ridge which is sufficient to impede drainage and form a swamp. The ridge crosses the county on an east-west axis and drains into Consecon Lake and Consecon Marsh. Outflow from the marsh is controlled by a dam.

Much of Consecon Marsh is surrounded by a narrow rim of deciduous trees dominated by soft maples. A large portion of the marsh is open water and the vegetation communities are not well interspersed. Cattails are the dominant emergents and muskgrasses are the dominant submergents. White Water Lily, Water Milfoil and waterweeds are sub-dominant species.

Muskrats, Raccoons, Red Foxes and Coyotes are present in the marsh area. The marsh is of relatively little significance for waterfowl production and staging but nearby Wellers Bay is used extensively by migrating waterfowl.

The marsh is easily accessible as it is encompassed by a number of roads. It is of some recreational value; a large amount of boating as well as a moderate amount of hunting and fishing take place on the marsh.

Special Features

This large lacustrine wetland is home to several provincially significant species; the Black and Common Terns as well as the Sedge and Marsh Wrens and Least Bittern all occur there. The regionally significant Green-backed Heron and Blanding's Turtle also frequent the marsh.

PRESQU'ILE BAY MARSH

Region - Eastern
District - Napanee
Conservation Authority
  - Lower Trent Region

County - Northumberland
Township - Brighton
Con. B,C
Lots 23-36
Township - Brighton,
  Presqu'ile
  Provincial Park

Latitude - 44° 00'
Longitude - 77° 43'

Total Size - 970 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
  80 per cent marsh
  17 per cent swamp
  3 per cent fen

General Description

This marsh is located along the north and west shores of Presqu'ile Bay, just east of Brighton, and includes a significant portion of Presqu'ile Provincial Park. The wetland is lacustrine. Most of the wetland is exposed to Presqu'ile Bay and part of it is located at the mouths of several creeks including Smithfield Creek and Proctors Creek. Because of its proximity to Lake Ontario, the wetland is of little value for flow augmentation or the detention of flood waters.

The peninsula of Presqu'ile is itself a significant landform called a tombolo. Present landforms, including the wetlands of the park, are evidence of the tombolo's growth. Prevailing winds from the west and southwest combined with the shape of the coast of Lake Ontario stretching to the east to form a longshore current. The current carried sand and gravel left by melting glaciers. This littoral drift accumulated and eventually, what was Presqu'ile Island became a peninsula joined to the mainland.

Much of the wetland is on silty soils; this, in part, has led to a high diversity of vegetation communities. Vegetation and open water are well interspersed; approximately half of the wetland is open water.

The wetland is a very important stop-over for migrating passerines, shorebirds and waterfowl. Approximately 300 species of birds have been recorded in Presqu'ile Provincial Park. A large variety of amphibians and reptiles are also found in the wetlands and surrounding areas. Although not much is known about their distribution, at least four species of salamanders, six toad and frog species, four turtle species, and five snake species have been recorded.

The area surrounding the wetland contains a high diversity of habitats including crops, pastureland, abandoned agricultural land and forest. There is good winter cover for the Ruffed Grouse and Gray Partridge.

The portion of the wetland within the provincial park is intensively used. Staffed interpretive shelters aid in the frequent educational uses made of the areas. Organized trips by schools, scout troops and other groups are common. Normally 5000 visitors attend a waterfowl viewing weekend program during spring migration. Each hunting season a controlled waterfowl hunt takes place; normally over 1100 waterfowl are taken. The wetlands and surrounding waters of Presqu'ile Bay are also used for leisure boating and fishing.

Most of the marsh outside the park is located on public land. Disturbances affecting this portion of Presqu'ile Bay Marsh include roads, a utility corridor, buildings, channelization, filling and water pollution.

Special Features

Presqu'ile Bay Marsh and particularly Presqu'ile Provincial Park are well known for a particular richness and diversity of plant and animal life. Provincially significant breeding species include the Pied-billed Grebe, Least Bittern, Ruddy Duck, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Northern Harrier, Black Tern, Caspian Tern, Marsh Wren and Sedge Wren. Many provincially significant birds are seen regularly during migration. The endangered Piping Plover and Peregrine Falcon are occasionally seen during migration. At least five provincially rare wetland plants occur in the marshes, including Grass-leaved Water-plantain and Smith's Club-rush. Regionally rare plants include Ram's-head Lady's-Slipper and Pale Green Orchis. Several plant species usually associated with northern habitats are also found in the wetlands of the park.

SAWGUIN CREEK MARSH

Region - Eastern
District - Napanee
Conservation Authority
- Prince Edward Region

County - Prince Edward
Township - Ameliasburgh

Con. I	Lots	58-62,85
II		53-85
III		1-68
IV		60-67

Latitude - 44° 06′
Longitude - 77° 22′

Total Size - 1956 ha
Class - 2
Type of Wetland -
87 per cent marsh
13 per cent swamp

General Description

This wetland, also known as Huff Island Marsh, is a large contiguous wetland located south of Belleville. The dominant site type is riverine; the secondary type is lacustrine at the rivermouth. It is hydrologically connected by Sawguin Creek to Albury Swamp. Because of its proximity to the Bay of Quinte and Lake Ontario the wetland is of minimal value for flow stabilization. Its role in the short-term removal of nutrients from surface waters is important since much of the area in the catchment basin is agricultural.

There is little interspersion of vegetation forms in the wetland. The marsh is comprised mainly of large areas of cattails and areas of Water Milfoil, Coontail, waterweeds, pondweeds and bladderworts interspersed with swamp areas dominated by Silver Maple, Black Ash, Red Ash, willow shrubs, grasses and sedges.

There is a very high diversity of habitats in the area surrounding Sawguin Creek Marsh. The wetland is of local significance as a waterfowl nesting area and for waterfowl production, particularly of the Mallard and Common Moorhen. It also provides a feeding area for the Great Blue Heron and a fish spawning and rearing area. There are a number of resources within the wetland including Wild Rice, Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles and furbearers such as Muskrats, Raccoons and Mink. In addition, fish are harvested from the wetland.

About 60 per cent of the wetland is privately owned; the remainder is public land and is generally easily accessible. A moderate level of hunting and fishing, as well as some nature appreciation and boating, takes place here. There are some disturbances to Sawguin Creek Marsh including causeways and a utility corridor.

Special Features

The Sawguin Creek Marsh supports the provincially significant plant Arrow Arum, and as well provides habitat for the provincially significant Northern Harrier and Marsh Wren.

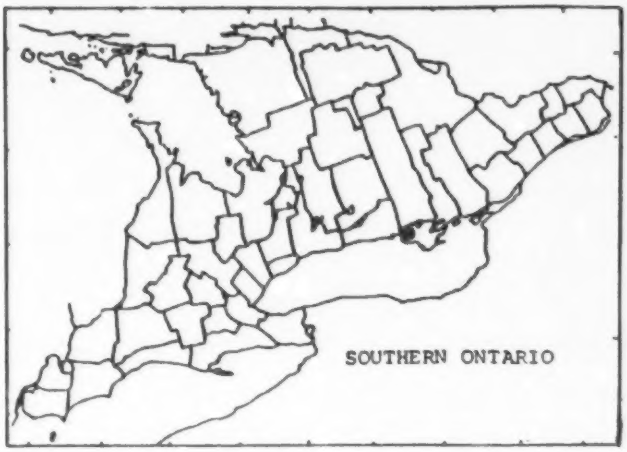
WELLER'S BAY WETLAND 1

Region - Eastern
District - Napanee
Conservation Authority
- Prince Edward Region

County - Prince Edward
Township - Ameliasburgh
Con. X
Lots 1-4

Latitude - 44° 01'
Longitude - 77° 34'

Total Size - 125 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
91 per cent marsh
9 per cent swamp



General Description

This single contiguous wetland is located on the east shore of Weller's Bay between Pine Point and Smoke Point. Most of the wetland is lacustrine and is located at the mouth of Gardenville Creek on an enclosed bay. The remainder is located along the creek and is riverine. Because of its proximity to Lake Ontario the wetland is of little hydrological value. Soils are primarily imperfectly drained sandy loam and organic soils.

Interspersion of vegetation types in the wetland is moderate. The marsh portion of the wetland is dominated by Water Milfoil, Coontail, Muskgrass, cattails, grasses, sedges and pondweeds. The swamp region is dominated by Jewelweed, willows, alders, ferns, horsetails and sedges.

The wetland provides a feeding area for terns and gulls. The area is provincially significant for waterfowl production and is important for migratory passerines. The wetland also provides spawning and rearing habitat for fish. There are several valuable resources in the wetland including Wild Rice, Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles, Muskrats and Raccoons. In addition, commercial fish are abundant during at least part of the year.

Weller's Bay wetland is 50 per cent privately owned. There is a moderate level of hunting, fishing and boating activity. There has been some disturbance to the wetland caused by roads, railway tracks, channelization and adjacent cottages.

Special Features

The Weller's Bay wetland provides habitat for the provincially significant Least Bittern, Black Tern, Northern Harrier and Marsh Wren.

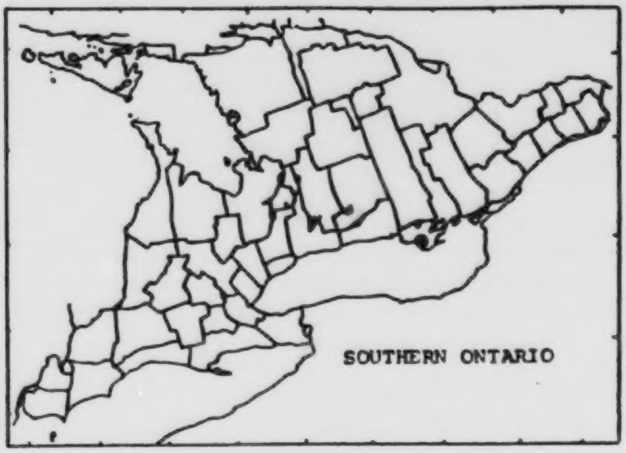
WEST LAKE

Region - Eastern
District - Napanee
Conservation Authority -
Prince Edward Region

County - Prince Edward
Township - Hallowell
Con. I West Lake
Military Tract I
West Lake south

Latitude - 43° 57′
Longitude - 77° 15′

Total Size - 706 ha
Class - 2
Type of Wetland -
84 per cent marsh
16 per cent swamp



General Description

This wetland is located on the north shore of West Lake, a large warm-water lake connected to Lake Ontario. Most of the West Lake wetland is associated with Bloomfield Creek, a meandering river entering the lake northwest of Gasket Island. The island separates the rivermouth marshes from the smaller enclosed-bay wetlands to the south and east. Since West Lake is hydrologically connected to Lake Ontario the wetland is of little value for flow stabilizaton. It does contribute towards improvement of local water quality by removing nutrients from surface waters. Organic soil is the predominant soil type, covering two-thirds of the entire area.

West Lake wetland displays a high diversity of plant communities in both marsh and swamp zones. Marsh areas are dominated by robust and narrow-leaved emergents, grasses and submergents. Wild Rice, Reed Canary Grass, Blue-joint Grass, cattails, bulrushes, burreeds and arrowheads cover wide sections around Bloomfield Creek and the West Lake shoreline. Sedge meadows are also abundant in the marsh. The open water areas contain emergents such as Water Milfoil, Crisp Pondweed, Coontail, Eelgrass, Pickerelweed, waterweeds and bladderworts. The swamp sites are shrub-rich with willows, meadowsweets, dogwoods and alders. These areas also contain immature hardwoods including Silver Maple, Red Maple, Yellow Birch, White Birch, ashes and elms as well as conifers such as White Cedar, Hemlock and

Tamarack. Marsh Marigold, Joe-Pye-weed, Sensitive Fern, sedges, horsetails and nightshades are also present.

The wetland is a locally significant deer yard during the winter and a regionally significant migration stopover site for waterfowl. It is also regionally important as a fish spawning and rearing habitat, particularly for pickerel and pike. Other fish species worth noting include the Tadpole Madtom, Northern Bogsucker and Grass Pickerel.

Resources found in the wetland include Wild Rice, Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles and furbearers such as Muskrats, Mink and Raccoons. The lake also supports a commercial fishery. Hunting occurs at a moderate level in the wetland.

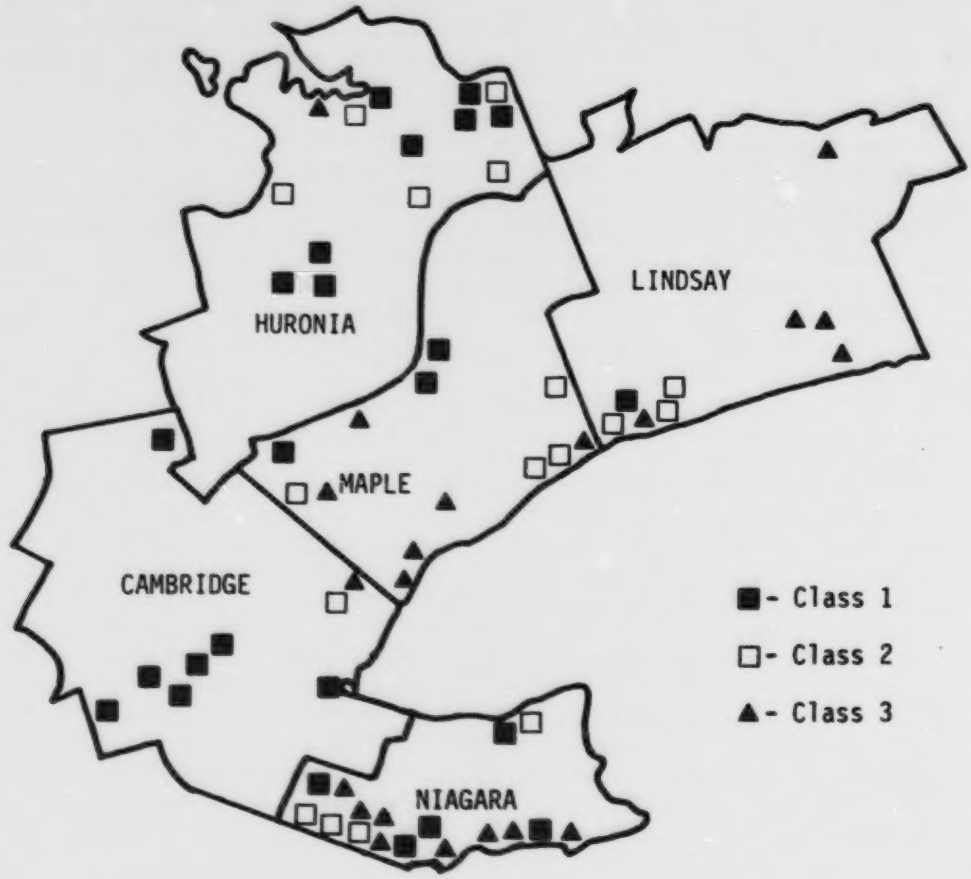
The level of human disturbance is intense in some areas of this wetland. Sources of disturbances include an adjacent industry, agricultural land within the wetland boundaries and a network of roads, trails and causeways. The West Lake wetland is 70 per cent privately owned.

Special Features

This large marsh supports a number of provincially significant birds including the Least Bittern, Canvasback, Northern Harrier, Black Tern and Marsh Wren. The provincially rare Arrow Arum is also found here.

CENTRAL REGION

Regional Discussion



The physiographic variety of the central administrative region is reflected in its wetlands. The southern portion of the Central Region falls within the Carolinian life zone of Ontario and possesses biota of a distinctly southern character, such as the Cucumber Tree and the Prothonotary Warbler. The Carolinian Canada project, a joint effort of government and private conservation groups, has the goal of preserving "critical unprotected natural areas" in the Carolinian zone, which include the Beverly Swamp, Jordan Station Marsh and the Rouge River wetlands (see Glossary).

The Niagara Escarpment Planning Area, with its many natural areas, transects the Central Region. Four Central Region wetlands covered in this report are within the Niagara Escarpment Planning Area and subject to the Niagara

Escarpment Plan and the associated efforts to obtain protection of significant natural areas.

Another effort to conserve Ontario's natural heritage is the Ministry of Natural Resources' Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) program (see Glossary). Twenty-four of the Central Region wetlands described here are also considered provincially significant ANSI. A further nine of the wetlands are regionally significant ANSI.

The numerous inland swamp forests of the region include the Roseville Swamp, which supports many regionally significant plants and rare fauna, including the Silvery, Blue-spotted and Tremblay's Salamanders. Beverley Swamp (1876 ha) supports a large colony of Great Blue Heron and many furbearers. Wainfleet Bog, Ontario's southernmost bog, provides breeding and feeding habitat for the provincially significant Marsh Wren and Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake, and supports regionally rare bog flora. Second Marsh, on the Lake Ontario shoreline, contains valuable habitat for migratory shorebirds and waterfowl. Eight provincially significant birds including the Yellow Rail, Wilson's Phalarope and LeConte's Sparrow find nesting habitat in the interior Holland Marsh (3206 ha) which also supports 37 regionally rare plants. One of southern Ontario's largest swamps is Minesing Swamp. Minesing provides habitat for the provincially significant Least Bittern, Northern Pintail, Northern Harrier and Spotted Turtle as well as 11 provincially rare plants, including one of Ontario's largest populations of the Prairie White-fringed Orchid. The great diversity of the Matchedash Bay Marsh is evident in its 138 bird species, 25 mammal species and at least 12 reptile and amphibian species. Matchedash Bay is important for fish spawning and rearing as well as waterfowl staging; it is a popular spot for anglers and hunters.

LINDSAY DISTRICT

Wetland	Class	County or Regional Municipality	page
Cobourg Marsh	3	Northumberland	99
Cranberry Marsh	2	Durham	100
Lower Otonabee River Wetland Complex	3	Peterborough	102
Lynde Creek Shores	1	Durham	104
Oshawa Filtration Plant Wetland	3	Durham	106
Oshawa's Second Marsh	2	Durham	108
Otonabee Midriver Wetland Complex	3	Peterborough	111
Rotten Lake Wetland	3	Peterborough	113
West Side Beach Marsh	2	Durham	115

COBOURG MARSH
(Peter's Rock)

Region - Central
District - Lindsay
Conservation Authority
- Central Lake Ontario

County - Northumberland
Township - Hamilton

Latitude - 43° 57'
Longitude - 78° 12'

Total Size - 77.6 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
53 per cent swamp
47 per cent marsh

General Description

This lacustrine wetland is located on an enclosed bay of Lake Ontario. Because of its location, it has little value in such hydrological attributes as flow stabilization and augmentation. It is, however, responsible for some nutrient removal and erosion buffering.

Vegetation communities in the wetland are very diverse. The predominant vegetation forms in the marsh are robust emergents such as cattails and narrow-leaved emergents such as grasses. These vegetation forms occur both in large single-stratum communities and in mixed communities. Conifers are abundant in the swamp community.

Resources found in the Cobourg Marsh include Snapping Turtles, Muskrats, Raccoons and a limited amount of timber. There is a moderate level of nature appreciation activity around the marsh but fishing and boating are not possible because of the lack of open water. Human disturbance to the wetland is very low.

Special Features

The Cobourg Marsh serves as breeding habitat for the provincially significant Least Bittern and Black Tern. The wetland is also a feeding area for colonial waterbirds such as the Great Blue Heron, Ring-billed Gull and Black Tern.

CRANBERRY MARSH

Region - Central
District - Lindsay
Conservation Authority
- Central Lake Ontario

Regional Municipality
- Durham
Township - Whitby
Con. 1
Lots 32-34

Latitude - 43° 50'
Longitude - 78° 58'

Total Size - 32.5 ha
Class - 2
Type of Wetland -
68 per cent marsh
32 per cent swamp

General Description

Cranberry, or Le Vay's as it is often called, is a small self-contained marsh located within the Lake Ontario Slope, just west of the port of Whitby. Of a type somewhat rarer than the typical broad delta lakefront marshes found at the mouths of rivers, Cranberry is landlocked by a narrow continuous sandy ridge and barrier beach along its Lake Ontario border. This ridge is covered by a dense stand of willow and poplar, while the remaining three sides of the marsh consist of thick growths of alder, dogwood and Red Ash. Semicircular in shape, Cranberry receives its water from springs and local field runoff. An interesting feature of this wetland is the central willow/alder thicket swamp or "shrub carr" and the thick border fringe of the same species. This extensive central cover occupies one-third of the total wetland area and is the major attraction for waterfowl, herons, bitterns and rails. The remainder of the marsh is open water with associated submergent and floating communities as the principle vegetation forms. The open water area, comprising almost 40 per cent of the total wetland, forms a horseshoe around the central thicket swamp. Sedges, burreeds and occasional patches of cattails occupy the outer fringe of the marsh. The provincially significant plants Bur-marigold Bidens discoidea and Bushy Cinquefoil are also found at Cranberry Marsh.

The Green-winged Teal, Gadwall, Red-breasted Merganser and the provincially significant Black-crowned Night-Heron and Marsh Wren are known to nest and/or feed in the marsh. Cranberry Marsh is the centre for a provincial Trumpeter Swan reintroduction program designed to replace the exotic Mute Swan with the native Trumpeter species. A Blanding's Turtle population also exists here.

As a staging area for waterfowl Cranberry Marsh is of regional importance and its waterfowl production is locally significant. The many decayed stumps and muskrat houses provide ideal sites for nesting waterfowl. There are also nesting boxes scattered throughout the marsh. The natural eutrophication process in Cranberry marsh appears to be increasing at an accelerated rate as a result of nutrient-rich runoff from surrounding fertilized cropland. This may have enhanced the wetland as a waterfowl feeding and nesting area. During the late summer, as the standing water level drops, extensive areas of mudflats are uncovered attracting a variety of migratory shorebirds.

This marsh is extensively used for recreational and educational activities. The entire marsh, except for a small private section in the southeast corner, is owned by the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority in co-operation with the Nature Conservancy of Canada. A walking trail winds along the entire length of the southern barrier ridge. Shaded by trees, this well-trodden path affords an excellent viewpoint of the marsh and adjacent lake.

Special Features

This unique enclosed bay on the Lake Ontario shore serves as an important waterfowl habitat for provincially significant species such as the American Widgeon and Northern Shoveler. Nesting colonies of Black Terns and several species of regionally significant plants occur here. In 1971, Cranberry Marsh gained fame as the second North American nesting site of the Little Gull. The wetland has been identified as a provincially significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI).

LOWER OTONABEE RIVER WETLAND COMPLEX

Region - Central
District - Lindsay
Conservation Authority
- Otonabee Region

County - Peterborough
Township - South Monaghan
Con. A, I-IV Lots 14-19

Township - Ontonabee
Con. XI Lots 7-10

Latitude - 44° 11'
Longitude - 78° 14'

Total Size - 948.2 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
85 per cent swamp
15 per cent marsh

General Description

This complex is associated with the Otonabee River from its outlet at Rice Lake northward to its western bend at Campbelltown. Upland forest and agricultural land separate the wetland into a complex of 17 individual wetlands ranging in size from 0.4 to 216 ha.

This area supports a high diversity of vegetation communities. Two-thirds of the swamp area is a mature forest swamp with Silver Maple, Black Ash and Black Willow dominant; White Cedar and Tamarack are less abundant. The remaining swamp is characterized by a thick growth of tall shrubs such as Speckled Alder and willows. Various herbs, mosses and narrow-leaved emergents are associated with these swamp areas. Small marshes occur as a border fringe along the river. Large areas of marsh are found at the delta and along a winding inlet in the northeast section of the complex. Pickerelweed, White Water Lily, cattails, burreeds and duckweeds are common.

The Lower Otonabee River complex is both riverine and lacustrine. Nutrients enter the wetlands from two sources (the Otonabee River and Rice Lake) giving it high productivity. The wetlands' contribution to flow stabilization is not significant because several detention areas exist upstream and Rice Lake is downstream. The wetlands play an important role in water quality improvement with high nutrient absorption by the dominant emergent and submergent vegetation. The delta acts as a sink for nutrients by trapping them in rapidly accumulating sediment layers. The presence of dense vegetation in the delta is a significant factor in erosion control.

Renewable resource products include timber, Wild Rice, Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles, Muskrats, Raccoons and Beavers. Baitfish (Spottail Shiners) are harvested commercially from the wetland.

Apart from the Trent-Severn Waterway, the complex is privately owned. Since the Trent-Severn canal system passes through the eastern side of the delta and up the Otonabee River, many boats disturb these wetlands in the spring and summer. Additional disturbances include cottages and associated water pollution, roads and a utility corridor.

Special Features

The Lower Otonabee River wetland is a large complex of highly productive wetland areas that begins at the Otonabee River delta on Rice Lake and stretches almost 10 kilometres upstream. The regionally significant Western Chorus Frog is found in these wetlands. They are also a valuable spawning and rearing site for Muskellunge. The wetland is part of an area identified as a regionally significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI).

LYNDE CREEK SHORES

Region - Central
District - Lindsay
Conservation Authority
- Central Lake Ontario
Regional Municipality
- Durham
Township - Whitby
Con. I
Lots 31-34

Latitude - 43° 51′
Longitude - 78° 58′

Total Size - 110 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
60 per cent marsh
40 per cent swamp

General Description

Lynde Creek is fed by a glacial kettle lake, Chalk Lake, located in the Oak Ridges moraine. The Creek meanders southward from Chalk Lake to the shallow marshy basin at its junction with Lake Ontario. Located just southwest of the town of Whitby, this wetland is typical of the remaining Lake Ontario shoreline marshes.

Surrounded mainly by cropland, Lynde Creek Shores wetland consists primarily of an extensive cattail marsh with open water sections and small wooded swamps to the west and north. The transition zone between these two wetland communities is moderate in length and diversity. Although there is some irregularity, the ecotone, or area between the dominant vegetation zones, remains largely intact and well defined in Lynde Creek Shores.

A secondary highway bisects the northern portion of Lynde Creek Shores marsh. This portion of the wetland is somewhat more productive than the southern portion of the marsh and comprises the largest marsh area associated with Lynde Creek. As the creek nears Lake Ontario it widens considerably, forming large expanses of open, sluggish water interspersed with large marsh islands. Most of the west side of the marsh is heavily treed with willows, dogwoods, alders and maples. A barrier beach with an outlet at the western end separates the marsh from Lake Ontario. Over half of Lynde Creek Shores is dominated by robust emergents with Yellow Pond Lily and pondweeds dominating open water sections. Provincially significant plants include Bur-marigold and Bushy Cinquefoil.

The marsh is a regionally significant staging area for waterfowl, but because of lack of nesting and brood cover, it is only of local significance in waterfowl production. Mute Swans nest in the marsh and the regionally significant Blue-gray Gnatcatcher has nested in the adjacent woods. Muskrats, Beavers, Raccoons, Mink and Red Foxes also inhabit this wetland. A seasonal coarse fishery exists in the deeper channels and heavy sport fishing for Carp, American Eel, and panfish takes place in the warmer months.

Most of the wetland is part of the Lynde Shores Conservation Area. Regular use is made of the area by nature enthusiasts and canoeists. During the winter, its proximity to urban areas and its good road access make Lynde Creek a very popular outdoor skating facility.

Special Features

There is considerable recreational and educational use made of this large lacustrine marsh. The Lynde Creek Shores wetland is a valuable breeding and feeding ground for the provincially significant American Widgeon, Northern Shoveler and Black Tern as well as the Eastern Spiny Softshell Turtle.

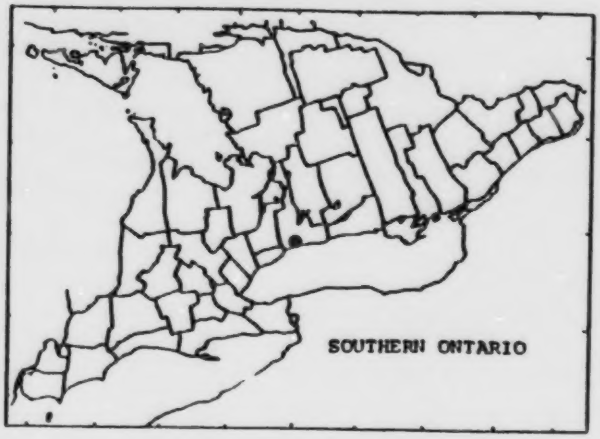
OSHAWA FILTRATION PLANT WETLAND

Region - Central
District - Lindsay
Conservation Authority
- Central Lake Ontario

Regional Municipality
- Durham Region
Township - Whitby East

Latitude - 43° 52′
Longitude - 79° 51′

Total Size - 2.1 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
80 per cent marsh
20 per cent swamp



General Description

This small lacustrine wetland is within the western limits of the city of Oshawa. The Oshawa Filtration Plant wetland derives its name from a pumping station located at its eastern end. The surrounding area consists of Lake Ontario to the south, industrial land to the west and a residential area to the north and east.

The wetland is spring-fed from an underground reservoir and there is no major outflow into Lake Ontario. Its surface water has a high dissolved solid and nutrient level, which is directly related to its high biological productivity. Soils of the wetland are 100 per cent silty clay; this is also a major factor contributing to its high productivity.

The main body of the wetland is open water interspersed with areas of robust emergents (cattails), broad-leaved emergents (Swamp Loosestrife), grasses and sedges. Open water patches are uniformly shallow and heavily vegetated with duckweeds in late summer. The southern end of the wetland consists of a dense swamp of Black Ash and willow shrubs bordering on a narrow barrier beach. Scattered swampy patches of deciduous trees, tall shrubs and herbs occur in the northern section.

This wetland is regionally significant as a waterfowl staging area but only locally important for waterfowl production. The American Bittern, Green-backed Heron and Sora and Virginia Rails also use this area.

Its small size is deceptive as an indicator of its social value. As it is located in a heavily urbanized area, recreational use of the wetland is understandably high; nature appreciation and educational exercises account for the majority of the activities. Its public ownership and unrestricted access further enhance its social value. The level of human disturbance is extremely high in the wetland; landfilling in the western industrial area is slowly consuming the marsh. Backwash from the adjacent filtration plant is also affecting the marsh's water quality.

Special Features

The Oshawa Filtration Plant marsh is a nesting and feeding area for the provincially significant Least Bittern, Black-crowned Night-Heron and Northern Shoveler. The site is also considered a regionally significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI).

OSHAWA'S SECOND MARSH

Region - Central
District - Lindsay
Conservation Authority -
Central Lake Ontario
Regional Municipality
- Durham
Township - East Whitby
Concession I
Lots 1 - 5

Latitude - 43° 52'
Longitude - 79° 51'

Total Size - 104.9 ha
Class - 2
Type of Wetland
- 71 per cent marsh
- 29 per cent swamp

General Description

Second Marsh is an enclosed bay on the north shore of Lake Ontario. It is separated from the lake by a vegetated gravel and sand barrier beach. The marsh is fed by Harmony and Fairwell Creeks. It now drains through an opening in the east end of the barrier beach, although it originally drained through an opening in the west end. The original opening was closed to raise the water level in the marsh in hopes that winter ice would be thick enough to support drilling equipment. The depth of the marsh basin was measured as part of a feasibility study investigating the possible expansion of Oshawa Harbour. After the drilling was completed the outlet was reconstructed at the east end of the barrier beach.

The reopening of the outlet at the east side has probably caused the decline of Second Marsh from what was undoubtedly a Class 1 wetland to its present rating as class 2. It is likely that this decline will continue unless corrective measures are taken. The reason for the declining status of Second Marsh is primarily related to sedimentation. With the outlet at the east end of the barrier beach the flow of water through the Marsh has slowed and sediment is being deposited in the open water marsh area. When the outlet was at the west side of the barrier beach sediment was carried through the Marsh into Lake Ontario.

Another factor causing a negative impact on the wetland is the damage being done to the cattail beds by carp. The carp also prevent the establishment of all types of vegetation throughout the open water area of the marsh. This is certainly contributing to the continued degradation of Second Marsh.

The main body of the wetland consists of a large expanse of open water surrounded by cattails, wet graminoid meadows, willow shrub thickets and wet or moist Poplar-Ash woodlands. Scattered colonies of Sago Pondweed are all that remains of vegetation in the open water area of the marsh. In the more protected areas of the cattail fringe the submergent Coontail grows in association with floating plants such as Yellow Pond-lily, White Pond-lily, duckweeds and liverworts.

The cattail stands consist primarily of Broad-leaved Cattail with small scattered colonies of Narrow-leaved Cattail. Associated with the Cattails are other emergents such as Great Bulrush and Burreed. The cattail stands often grade into wet graminoid meadows consisting of Reed Canary Grass, Bluejoint Grass, Cut-grass, Jewelweed, smartweeds, Marsh Skullcap and Nightshade. The drier fringes of these wet meadows are dominated by Smooth Bromegrass and Quack Grass.

The thickets of dense shrubs on wet ground consist of several species of willow, Red-osier Dogwood and White Spirea. These thickets, as well as the cattail and wet meadow areas, often merge into the wet to moist poplar-ash woodland dominated by Red Ash, Trembling Aspen and Balsam Poplar.

The sandy barrier beach is dominated by poplars and willows with Canada Wild-rye and Silverweed. Sandbar Willow, sedges, rushes, Sea-rocket, Seaside-spurge and Sand Dropseed occurring in the more open areas.

Renewable resources in Second Marsh include timber, Bullfrogs and Snapping Turtles. Important furbearing animals in Second Marsh include Muskrats, Raccoons, Beavers, Mink, Red Foxes and Short-tailed Weasel.

Special Features

Second Marsh is set apart from most wetlands by its tremendous diversity. A preliminary checklist of vascular plants lists 361 species representing 219 genera and 71 families. Forty-one of these species are regionally rare or uncommon and _Potentilla paradoxa_ (bushy cinquefoil) is provincially rare.

A checklist of birds observed at Second Marsh includes 254 species; 68 species actually breed in the wetland. Six species are considered provincially significant (Northern Shoveler, Least Bittern, King Rail, Little Gull, Black Tern and Marsh Wren) and three species are considered to be regionally significant (Green-winged Teal, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Northern Mockingbird).

A total of 27 mammal species are found in Second Marsh, along with 12 different species of amphibians and reptiles and 19 species of fish.

The wetland is also a provincially significant area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI).

OTONABEE MIDRIVER WETLAND COMPLEX

Region - Central
District - Lindsay
Conservation Authority
- Otonabee Region

County - Peterborough
Township - South Monaghan,
Con. III Lots 7,8
IV 8-18
Township - Otonabee
Con. XII-XVI
Lot 12

Latitude - 44° 12'
Longitude - 78° 18'

Total Size - 599.3 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
92 per cent swamp
8 per cent marsh

General Description

Bordering the Otonabee River, these wetlands stretch from the town of Wallace Point downstream almost seven kilometres, stopping short of Campbelltown. Individual wetlands range from 3.8 to 311.5 ha in size.

Much of the wetland is a mature wooded swamp of Silver Maple, Red Maple and Black Willow with a smaller thicket swamp of Speckled Alder, Buttonbush, dogwoods and willows. Herbs associated with the woody swamp include False Nettle, Purple Loosestrife, Jewelweed and Sensitive Fern. Small open-water ponds and embayments are common. The small marsh component is confined to four main embayments or inlets of the main river course. Pickerelweed, White Water Lily, cattails, bur-reeds and three species of duckweed are abundant in the marshes. The dominant emergents are Canada Waterweed and Wild Celery. White Birch, White Cedar, Trembling Aspen and Balsam Poplar are found in areas of transition. The surrounding area contains highly diverse upland habitats with agriculture as the dominant land use.

The Otonabee Midriver wetland's catchment basin is 56 square kilometres in size. Several detention areas exist upstream and downstream from the complex; as a result its value for flow stabilization is not very high. Considering the high level of agriculture within its drainage basin, the wetland's role in nutrient removal and water quality improvement is significant.

Wildlife values of the wetland include good winter cover for species such as the Ruffed Grouse. The wetland is also a feeding area for the Great Blue Heron and is locally important as a waterfowl production site. These wetlands contain many resources. Timber is abundant, Wild Rice is present and Beavers, Muskrats, Raccoons, Bullfrogs and Snapping Turtles exist throughout the complex. Spottail Shiners are harvested as baitfish.

Ownership of the wetland is private and access is restricted. Situated along the Trent-Severn waterway, these wetlands are subject to heavy disturbance from boat traffic.

Special Features

Located in the Peterborough Moraine unit, this wetland complex consists of seven individual wetlands, all of which have diverse plant communities. This riverine site is a regionally significant spawning and rearing area for Muskellunge, pickerel and bass.

ROTTEN LAKE WETLAND

Region - Central
District - Lindsay
Conservation Authority
- Otonabee Region

County - Peterborough
Township - Dummer
Con. VIII
Lots 11-13

Latitude - 44° 27'
Longitude - 78° 01'

Total Size - 138 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
100 per cent marsh

General Description

Located just south of the town of Centre Dummer, in Dummer Township, this palustrine wetland is a headwater source of the West Ouse River. It consists of a central open water section of uniform depth and a marsh that encircles it. A permanent outflow exists at the southern end. Its value for flow augmentation is significant because it serves to stabilize the flow of the West Ouse River well into the summer.

Cattails and bulrushes comprise a band of robust emergents around the lake. Muskgrass and White Water Lilies are also abundant. Several large areas of dead trees, Sweet Gale shrubs, Joe-Pye-weed and willows exist outside the cattail marsh. Surface waters have high nutrient levels and overlie bottom soil of thick organic muck and marl.

Resources found at Rotten Lake include Mink, Muskrats, Beavers, Raccoons, Bullfrogs and Snapping Turtles. Bait fish are seasonally abundant in the lake.

A low level of recreational activity occurs in the marsh. Ownership is private and access to the wetland is restricted. Disturbances include a county road that serves as the marsh's western border. A limited amount of wood harvesting occurs in the area to supply a small scale cedar oil extracting mill adjacent to the wetland.

Special Features

Rotten Lake Marsh is a marl lake, an unusual geological feature. The wetland provides breeding and feeding habitat for the provincially significant Black Tern and Marsh Wren. The marsh is a significant spawning and rearing site for the Emerald Shiner, Five-point Stickleback and Fathead Minnow. The site is also a regionally significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI).

WEST SIDE BEACH MARSH

Region - Central
District - Lindsay
Conservation Authority
-Central Lake Ontario

Regional Municipality
- Durham
Township - Darlington
Con. I
Lots 12-14

Latitude - 43° 53'
Longitude - 78° 40'

Total Size - 35.7 ha
Class - 2
Type of Wetland -
94 per cent marsh
6 per cent swamp

General Description

The West Side Beach Marsh is a single wetland 35.7 ha in size located at a river mouth on Lake Ontario southwest of Bowmanville. The site type is lacustrine. Soil in the area is primarily clay loam and drainage is fair to good. Because of its location the area has no significance for flow stabilization. However, it does have a fairly high value for water quality improvement. The marsh is moderately effective as an erosion buffer which is of some importance in the central Lake Ontario area where, due to steep stream gradients, erosion is a problem.

The diversity of vegetation communities is very high in the West Side Beach Marsh. The marsh is dominated by cattails, sedges, water lilies and pondweeds. Deciduous trees and tall shrubs are also abundant. As well, there is a high diversity of habitat surrounding West Side Beach Marsh including pasture and crop land, and urban and industrial development. Nearby wetlands and open water areas are hydrologically connected by surface water to West Side Beach Marsh. Open water in the marsh is distributed such that there is abundant shoreline rather than larger unbroken areas of open water. These factors all contribute to the suitability of the marsh as wildlife habitat.

Bullfrogs and Snapping Turtles are present as are furbearers such as Muskrats, Raccoons, Beavers, Mink, Red Foxes and Coyotes. Human disturbances, other than a small amount of water pollution, are minor in the West Side Beach Marsh. The area is privately owned.

Special Features

The West Side Beach Marsh is a feeding area for the Least Bittern and Black Tern; both are provincially significant species. The site is also a regionally significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI).

HURONIA DISTRICT

Wetland	Class	County	page
Atherley Narrows Wetlands	2	Simcoe	119
Barnstable Bay	2	Simcoe	120
Bluffs Creek	1	Simcoe	121
Dalrymple Lake	1	Simcoe, Victoria	122
Hog's Bay Marsh	3	Simcoe	123
Lake St. John	2	Simcoe	124
Little Lake Wetland	1	Simcoe	125
Lover's Creek Swamp	2	Simcoe	126
Mara County Forest	1	Simcoe	128
Marl Lake	1	Simcoe	129
Matchedash Bay Marsh	1	Simcoe	131
Minesing Swamp	1	Simcoe	133
Mud Lake Swamp	1	Simoce	135
Sturgeon Bay Wetland Complex	2	Simcoe	136

ATHERLEY NARROWS WETLAND

Region - Central
District - Huronia

County - Simcoe
Township - City of Orillia,
Mara
Con. XI-XIII
Lots 29-31

Latitude - 44° 36'
Longitude - 79° 21'

Total Size - 240.7 ha
Class - 2
Type of Wetland -
60 per cent marsh
40 per cent swamp

General Description

The Atherley Wetland is located at the narrow junction of Lake Couchiching and Lake Simcoe. The swampy portion of the wetland is on the east shore of Lake Couchiching and the marsh extends out into the southern portion of the lake. The marsh portion of the wetland is primarily open water with free floating and submergent plants dominating. The swamp is dominated by hardwoods and tall shrubs.

The Atherley Narrows wetland has a very large catchment basin incorporating Lake Simcoe, Holland Marsh and the Holland River. However, as the wetland is located on Lake Couchiching and is only a short distance from Lake Simcoe, it has limited value in flow stabilization.

The wetland is a regionally important fish spawning and rearing ground and is an important recreational area. It is located very close to Orillia and is surrounded by an urban environment. Boating, canoeing and fishing are popular activities in the wetland. Much of the wetland is publicly owned.

Special Features

Atherley Narrows is a regionally significant spawning area for several species of commercially important fish. The Common Tern, Black Tern and Pied-billed Grebe, provincially significant bird species, are also found in the wetland.

BARNSTABLE BAY

Region - Central
District - Huronia

County - Simcoe
Township - Mara
Con. VI-IX, Lots 17-25

Latitude - 44° 34′
Longitude - 79° 16′

Total Size - 753 ha
Class - 2
Type of Wetland -
81 per cent swamp
19 per cent marsh

General Description

Barnstable Bay is a large lacustrine wetland on the northeast shore of Lake Simcoe approximately 10 kilometres southeast of Orillia. Since the wetland is located on Lake Simcoe, it has relatively little value for flow stabilization. A large portion of the wetland is swamp and is dominated by tall shrubs and hardwoods. The marsh portion is dominated by cattails and bulrushes with Coontail, Water Milfoil, Wild Celery and water lilies subdominant. Only a relatively small area is open water and interspersion of vegetation communities in the wetland is poor.

The Osprey is known to nest in the wetland and the Common Tern and Caspian Tern feed in the marsh. The Great Blue Heron is also common in the area. The wetland is regionally important for waterfowl staging and locally important for waterfowl production. The White-tailed Deer uses the area to a considerable extent in the winter. Smallmouth Bass, Northern Pike and Yellow Perch are all found in the wetland.

Several resources are found in the wetland including timber, Wild Rice, several species of fish, Snapping Turtles, Muskrats, Raccoons and Beavers. Fishing and boating occur at moderate levels. Most of the wetland is privately owned and access by the public is restricted.

Special Features

The Common Tern and Caspian Tern, both provincially significant species, are found at Barnstable Bay.

BLUFFS CREEK

Region - Central
District - Huronia

County - Simcoe
Township - Orillia
Con. I-II Lots 14-17
Township - Oro
Con. X-XI Lots 16
Con. XII Lots 14-17
Con. XIII Lots 10,14,16
Con. XIV Lots 16,17

Latitude - 44° 34′
Longitude - 79° 25′

Total Size - 313.4 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
68 per cent swamp
32 per cent marsh

General Description

Bluffs Creek wetland is located on the northwest side of Lake Simcoe where Bluffs Creek drains into Shingle Bay. The swamp portion of the wetland contains a diverse mixture of vegetation communities. Well interspersed hardwood, conifer and tall shrub communities dominate the site. The portion of the marsh extending out into the lake is made up of communities of floating and submergent plants. Emergents are more common in peripheral areas.

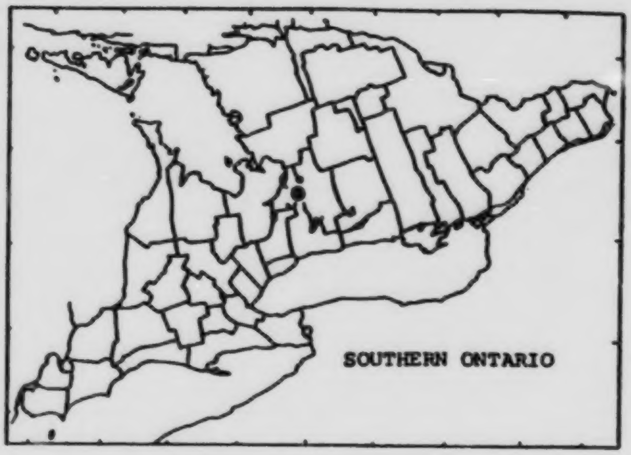
As the wetland is located on Lake Simcoe, it has little value in flow stabilization. The predominant wildlife value of the wetland is its role as a regionally significant spawning and rearing ground for fish. The Osprey is known to nest here and the swamp is of local importance for White-tailed Deer in the winter.

There is a moderate amount of hunting in the swamp. Other forms of recreation occur only sparingly. A third of the Bluffs Creek wetland is publicly owned.

Special Features

Bluffs Creek wetland is an important spawning and rearing ground for Largemouth Bass, Brook Trout and other fish species. The provincially significant Northern Harrier and Caspian Tern frequent this wetland.

DALRYMPLE LAKE



Region - Central
District - Huronia
County - Simcoe,
Victoria
Townships - Mara,
Carden
Con. IV-XI, Lots 1-7

Latitude - 44° 36'
Longitude - 79° 09'

Total Size - 2213.4 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
76 per cent swamp
24 per cent marsh

General Description

This large lacustrine wetland has an extremely diverse vegetational makeup. Over 60 communities, including virtually all those typical of marshes and swamps in Southern Ontario, are found here. Communities are well interspersed, creating good habitat for many wildlife species. The wetland is regionally significant for waterfowl production and staging. Both the Osprey and Black Tern nest in the wetland and White-tailed Deer are common inhabitants in the winter.

Only a small portion of the wetland's catchment basin consists of other detention areas and there are few detention areas downstream. Therefore, the wetland has relatively high value for flow stabilization. The wetland drains into Dalrymple Lake and from there north into the Head and Black Rivers.

Much of this wetland is privately owned and access to the public is restricted. However, much use is made of the publicly owned parts. Hunting, fishing, canoeing and boating are all popular activities.

Special Features

Dalrymple Lake wetland provides habitat for the Common Tern and Black Tern, both provincially significant species. The wetland also provides nesting habitat for Great Blue Herons and is of regional significance for waterfowl production and staging.

HOG'S BAY MARSH

Region - Central
District - Huronia

County - Simcoe
Township - Tay
Con. V
Lots 13,14

Latitude - 44° 43'
Longitude - 79° 48'

Total Size - 31.6 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
100 per cent marsh

General Description

Hog's Bay Marsh is a small wetland at the south end of Hog's Bay, approximately two kilometres south of Port McNicoll. Its size restricts it from having a great diversity of vegetation communities. It does, however, have a relatively rich base; mineral soils predominate, as opposed to the organic soils which are much more common in marshes of the area. Most of the vegetation of the marsh forms a ring around the shallow bay.

Hog's Bay is an inlet of Georgian Bay. The marsh therefore does not have any value in flow stabilization or augmentation. Small size again restricts the marsh from serving an important role in staging or production of waterfowl. It does harbor Muskrats, Raccoons and sport fish.

The area surrounding the marsh has been disturbed by humans to a large extent. It is traversed by a railway bridge and roads and buildings are nearby. Most of the marsh is privately owned and public activities are restricted. Nonetheless a limited amount of fishing and boating does take place in the publicly owned areas.

Special Features

Hog's Bay Marsh provides feeding or breeding habitat for the Caspian Tern and Marsh Wren, both provincially significant birds. The waters of Hog's Bay provide spawning areas for Northern Pike and Largemouth Bass.

LAKE ST. JOHN

Region - Central
District - Huronia

County - Simcoe
Township - Rama
Con. Broken Front
Lots 11 - 15
Rama Indian Reserve

Latitude - 44° 39′
Longitude - 79° 19′

Total Size - 64.0 ha
Class - 2
Type of Wetland -
55 per cent swamp
45 per cent marsh

General Description

This wetland is located at the south end of Lake St. John between Lake St. John and Lake Couchiching. In spite of its small size a number of different community types are present. This diversity stimulates use of the area by various fish and wildlife species. Muskrats, Raccoons, Beavers and Osprey are present, as are fish such as Northern Pike, Yellow Perch and Large-mouth Bass. The wetland, however, does not play a large role in production and staging of Waterfowl.

This wetland does not have great value in flow stabilization as it is located on Lake St. John, a lake of more than 600 hectares, and is only a few kilometres upstream from Lake Couchiching, which covers almost 5000 hectares.

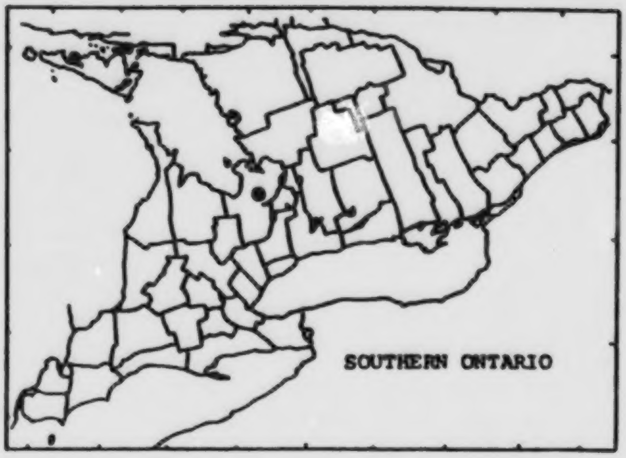
Much of the wetland is privately owned and a portion is on the Rama Indian Reserve. The remainder is publicly owned and activities are unrestricted. A considerable amount of hunting and fishing takes place in the wetland.

Special Features

The Lake St. John wetlands provide feeding areas for the provincially significant Least Bittern and Caspian Tern.

LITTLE LAKE WETLAND
(Vespra Township)

Region - Central
District - Huronia
Conservation Authority
  - Nottawasaga Valley



County - Simcoe
Township - Vespra

Con. I	Lots	5-14
II		5-15
III		13-18

Latitude - 44° 26'
Longitude - 79° 41'

Total Size - 285 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
52 per cent swamp
47 per cent marsh
1 per cent bog

General Description

The Little Lake Wetland is located only two kilometres north of Barrie. Since open water occupies a large portion of the wetland most of the vegetation occurs on the periphery of the pond.

The Great Blue Heron and Caspian Tern frequent Little Lake but the area is of little importance for the production of waterfowl. Other wildlife species known to inhabit the area include Ruffed Grouse, Raccoons, Beavers, Mink, Red Foxes and Snapping Turtles.

Two smaller detention areas occur upstream from the wetland but these do not have a great effect on its value in flow stabilization. The wetland is drained by Willow Creek which runs by the village of Midhurst, through Minesing Swamp and, eventually, into the Nottawasaga River.

Fishing is a popular activity in the wetland and some boating and canoeing also occurs. Most of the wetland is publicly owned.

Special Features

The wetland at Little Lake provides feeding habitat for the Caspian Tern, a provincially significant bird species.

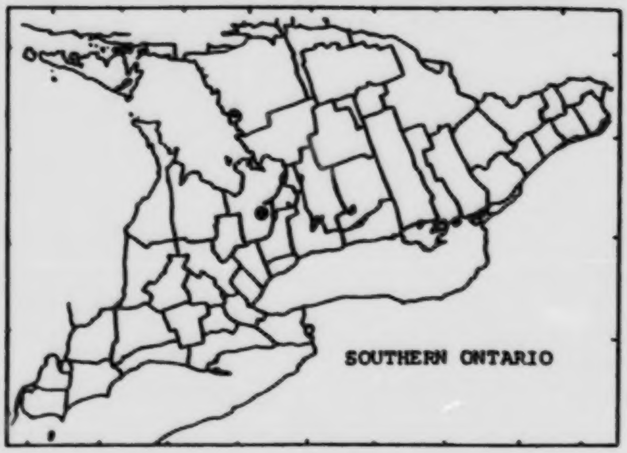
LOVER'S CREEK SWAMP

Region - Central
District - Huronia
Conservation Authority
- South Lake Simcoe

County - Simcoe
Township - Innisfil
Con. VI-XIII
Lots 11-15

Latitude - 44° 16'
Longitude - 79° 38'

Total Size - 680.3 ha
Class - 2
Type of Wetland -
99 per cent swamp
1 per cent marsh



General Description

Lover's Creek Swamp is a riverine wetland complex consisting of four individual wetlands located approximately seven kilometres south of Barrie. Cedar dominates the swamp. Smaller disconnected areas of shrubs occur within the major stands but, in general, interspersion of communities is quite low.

The wetland is a deer yard during the winter and furbearers such as Muskrats, Raccoons, Beavers and Red Foxes are present year round. Because of the lack of open water the swamp is of little or no significance in the production of waterfowl. Brook Trout are present in Lover's Creek.

The wetland has a relatively large catchment basin (over 400 square kilometres) and has considerable value in flow stabilization. Since the villages of Painswich and Tollendal are downstream from the swamp its value in flow stabilization is important in times of high water.

Recreational usage of the wetland is relatively high. Although boating is not possible, fishing and hunting activities occur at moderate to high levels. Some nature study occurs in the wetland. All of the wetland is privately owned.

Special Features

Lover's Creek Swamp contains two regionally significant plant species, Smith's Melic Grass and the Slender Wedge Grass as well as the provincially significant Marsh Hawk. The wetland is locally important for over-wintering White-tailed Deer.

MARA COUNTY FOREST

Region - Central
District - Huronia

County - Simcoe
Township - Mara
Con. XI - XIII
Lots 1-14
Township - Rama
Con. A, Lots 3-13

Latitude - 44° 39′
Longitude - 79° 11′

Total Size - 970.2 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
91 per cent swamp
5 per cent bog
4 per cent marsh

General Description

This complex is made up of a number of palustrine and isolated wetlands mainly on organic soils. The vegetation of the complex is very diverse; over 30 different community types are present. Tall shrubs and hardwoods are the dominant forms. White-tailed Deer, Muskrats, Raccoons, Beavers and Great Blue Herons are common in the wetland. Mara County Forest is locally important for the production and staging of waterfowl. Fish spawning as well as fish harvesting also occur.

There are no detention areas above the complex but several occur within a short distance downstream; these include the Dalrymple wetland, Dalrymple Lake and the Head River. Nonetheless its value in flow stabilization is considerable.

Use of the area for hunting is quite high and moderate for nature appreciation. Other forms of recreational activity occur at low levels. Half of the area is publicly owned.

Special Features

The Mara County Forest contains three wetland types: marsh, bog and swamp. Bogs are particularly rare in the Simcoe Lowlands. The provincially significant River Otter and regionally significant Black Bear frequent the wetland.

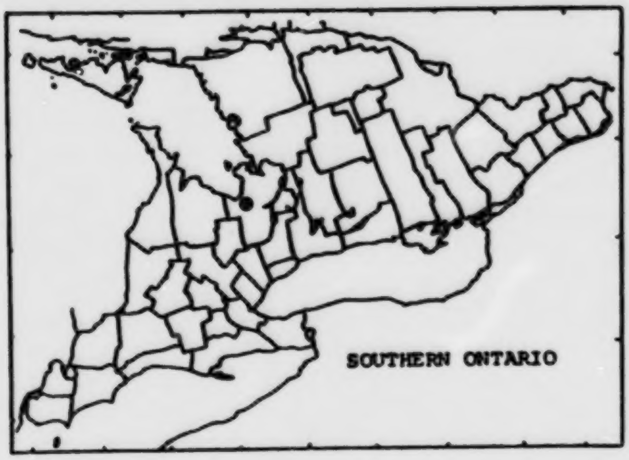
MARL LAKE

Region - Central
District - Huronia
Conservation Authority
- Nottawasaga

County - Simcoe
Township - Flos
Con. VII
Lots 23-25

Latitude - 44° 31'
Longitude - 79° 59'

Total Size - 121.4 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
70 per cent marsh
30 per cent swamp



General Description

Marl Lake is located approximately 20 kilometres northwest of Barrie. This palustrine wetland is connected to the Nottawasaga River via Marl Creek.

While only two wetland types are represented in this wetland, the diversity of vegetation communities is high; this is important to the wildlife species using the area. This wetland provides feeding areas for both the Caspian Tern and Great Blue Heron in addition to nesting habitat for the Marsh Wren. The area also provides good winter cover for the Ruffed Grouse and Red Fox. Snapping Turtles and Bullfrogs are found within the wetland as are Muskrats, Beavers, Raccoons and Mink. Bait fish and/or coarse fish are abundant at least part of the year, as are Northern Pike, Bluegill and Large-mouth Bass. Use of the wetland for hunting nature appreciation is moderate and such activities as fishing and boating occur only sporadically.

Access to Marl Lake is easy at most times by waterway or road. Sixty per cent of the wetland area is publicly owned and 40 per cent is on privately owned land. Disturbance of the wetland area is largely due to a nearby road.

Special Features

Marl Lake marsh provides breeding or feeding habitat for the Caspian Tern and Marsh Wren, both provincially significant species. The wetland has also been identified as a regionally significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI).

MATCHEDASH BAY MARSH

Region - Central
District - Huronia

County - Simcoe
Township - Tay
Con. XII, XIII Lots 2-10
Con. XI Lots 7-9

Latitude - 44° 44′
Longitude - 79° 39′

Total Size - 807.4 ha
Class 1
Type of Wetland -
100 per cent marsh

General Description

The marsh area of Matchedash Bay is considered to be a key wetland in southern Ontario by Ducks Unlimited and the Federation of Ontario Naturalists. The parks branch of the Ministry of Natural Resources considers it a provincially significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI). One hundred and thirty-eight species of birds are known to inhabit the marsh as do at least 12 herptile species and 25 mammal species.

Since the marsh borders on Georgian Bay, it has little hydrological significance either in terms of flow stabilization, catchment or detention of surface runoff. Land use in the basin is mostly agricultural with the remainder consisting of forested or abandoned agricultural land.

Aquatic vegetation is extensive and very dense in most parts of the wetland. Emergents, notably cattails and bulrushes, are the most common vegetation. The submergents that dominate the inshore areas are Water Milfoil, waterweeds and pondweeds. Open water areas are dominated by Wild Celery, Muskgrass and bladderworts. The centre of the bay is shallow, but generally devoid of aquatic plants as the water is too turbid to allow appreciable light to reach the bottom.

The wetland is regionally important in the staging of waterfowl and locally important for waterfowl production. Commercial fish (bait fish and/or coarse fish) are abundant in the marsh during at least part of the year. Hunting activity in the marsh is high and other activities such as nature appreciation, fishing and canoeing or boating also occur.

Access to Matchedash Bay is easy at most times of the year by road or waterway. Ninety-three per cent of the wetland is publicly owned.

Special Features

Matchedash Bay Marsh provides breeding habitat for the Black Tern, Marsh Wren and Sedge Wren and feeding areas for the Northern Harrier, Least Bittern, Common Tern and Caspian Tern. Seven regionally significant species are present including the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Golden-winged Warbler. The area is also of regional significance for fish spawning and rearing.

MINESING SWAMP

Region - Central
District - Huronia
Conservation Authority
- Nottawasaga

County - Simcoe
Township - Sunnidale
Con. I-VI
Lots 18-24
Township - Vespra
Con. IX-XIV
Lots 4-21

Latitude - 44° 23'
Longitude - 79° 52'

Total Size - 6000 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
80 per cent swamp
15 per cent marsh
5 per cent fen

General Description

The Minesing Swamp is a natural basin formed by beach terraces of three glacial lakes (Lakes Algonquin, Nipissing and Payette). Every spring the swamp receives flood waters from the Nottawasaga River and its tributaries the Boyne River, Pine River, Innisfel Creek, Mad River and Willow Creek. The catchment basin of the swamp is over 2500 square kilometres. The area acts as a huge water-storage area and slowly releases the water into the main river channel and, eventually, into Georgian Bay. The swamp is an excellent example of a natural flood control reservoir.

The natural features of Minesing swamp are as varied as the swamp is large. Predominantly a deciduous swamp, the site also consists of large tracts of cool coniferous swamps, some of the most distinctive fens in southern Ontario and marshes of cattails and sedges. The deciduous bottomland swamp along the Nottawasaga River is one of the most northerly locations of the Carolinian zone in Ontario. In some areas near the river, Hackberry is a dominant tree species, perhaps the only place in Canada other than Point Pelee and Pelee Island where this southern species is so conspicuous. Southern birds, such as the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, as well as southern plants, such as Canada

Moonseed and Bladdernut, are at their northern range limits in the Minesing Swamp. The contrast between the southern deciduous swamp and the northern coniferous swamp is dramatic. Northern birds such as the Golden-crowned Kinglet and Brown Creeper and northern fen sedges and willows lend a boreal aspect to some of the communities.

Surprisingly few biological studies have taken place in the swamp considering its size and proximity to urban centres. Much has yet to be learned about the species that inhabit the wetland and the ecological associations that are present. Such studies will undoubtedly turn up significant species yet to be recorded in the swamp.

The swamp is used extensively for hunting, particularly for White-tailed Deer. The swamp provides good yarding habitat for deer. Fishing is also a popular activity. Canoeing and boating occur less frequently.

Much of the area is privately owned but a good portion of that is open to the public for limited activities. The remainder is publicly owned with few restrictions on activities.

Special Features

Minesing Swamp is one of the largest wetlands in southern Ontario. Many interesting and important wildlife species are found here including the Least Bittern, Northern Harrier and at least 11 species of provincially significant plants. Known rare plants include several species of orchid found in few other Ontario locations and several other species of grass and sedge. The wetland is also a provincially significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI).

MUD LAKE SWAMP

Region - Central
District - Huronia

County - Simcoe
Township - Rama
Con. I-III, Lots 19-21
Township - Mara
Con. XI-XIII, Lots 20-24

Latitude - 44^{o} 39′
Longitude - 79^{o} 18′

Total Size - 988.3 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
80 per cent swamp
20 per cent marsh

General Description

The diversity of this large wetland is evident in many of its biological attributes. Two site types are present: palustrine and lacustrine. There are several detention areas within a few kilometres below the wetland but none above it, so it is of value for flow stabilization. Most of the soils underlying the swamp and marsh are organic, although some mineral soils are also present. Over 25 different vegetation community types are present in the wetland and these communities are well interspersed.

The wetland is regionally significant for the production and staging of waterfowl. In addition, it is locally important in providing winter habitat for the White-tailed Deer. Northern Pike, Yellow Perch and Largemouth Bass inhabit the marshy areas exposed to Mud Lake.

Much of the wetland is privately owned and access is restricted. The remaining public section is subject to a high intensity of hunting and a moderate amount of fishing, boating and canoeing.

Special Features

The Caspian Tern, Common Tern and Marsh Wren, all provincially significant bird species, can be found in the Mud Lake wetland. This wetland is also of regional significance for waterfowl production and staging.

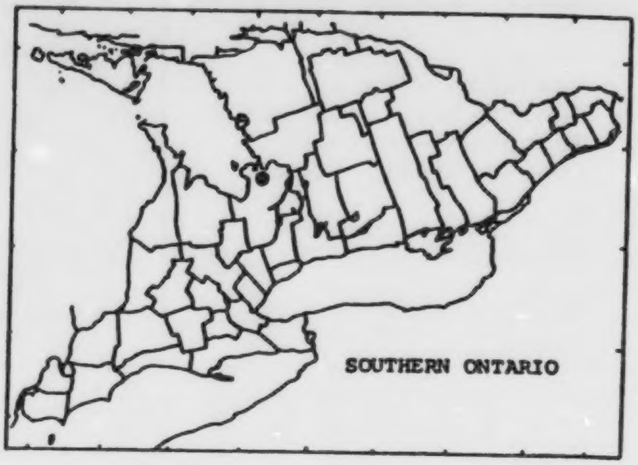
STURGEON BAY WETLAND COMPLEX

Region - Central
District - Huronia

County - Simcoe
Township - Tay
Con. VIII
Lots 8,9

Latitude - 44° 43'
Longitude - 79° 44'

Total Size - 192.1 ha
Class - 2
Type of Wetland -
62 per cent marsh
38 per cent swamp



General Description

Sturgeon Bay Wetland Complex is composed of a small lacustrine site on an inlet of Georgian Bay and several smaller palustrine sites nearby. The wetland is mostly marsh, but an area of swamp exists along the shore. Open water occupies a large portion of the wetland. Vegetation, mostly cattails, occurs in diffuse open stands.

In addition to providing habitat for provincially significant species, Sturgeon Bay is regionally significant for waterfowl staging. A number of commercially important fish species are found in the wetland including Small-mouth Bass, Large-mouth Bass and Yellow Perch.

Since most of the wetland is located on an inlet of Georgian Bay, it does not have value in flow stabilization in times of high water or drought. Many recreational activities take place in the wetland and surrounding area. Hunting, fishing and boating are all popular. About two thirds of the wetland is publicly owned.

Special Features

Sturgeon Bay provides breeding and feeding habitat for the Caspian Tern, Black Tern and Marsh Wren, all provincially significant species.

MAPLE DISTRICT

Wetland	Class	County or Regional Municipality	page
Alton-Hillsburgh Wetland Complex	2	Wellington, Peel	139
Caledon Creek Swamp	3	Peel	141
Caledon Lake	1	Peel, Dufferin	143
Carruther's Creek Marsh	3	Durham	145
Frenchman's Bay	2	Durham	147
Holland Marsh	1	Simcoe, York	149
Humber River Marshes	3	Metro Toronto	151
Musselman Lake	2	York	153
Pottageville Swamp	1	York	155
Rattray Marsh	3	Peel	157
Rouge River Wetland	2	Durham	159
Sleswick Complex	3	Peel	161
Unionville Marsh	3	York	163

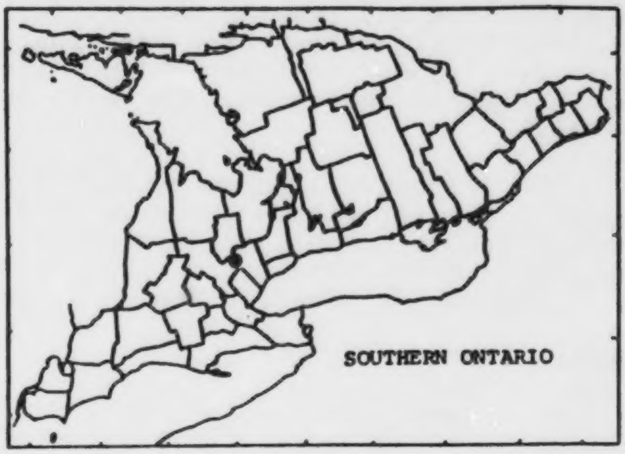
ALTON-HILLSBURGH WETLAND COMPLEX

Region - Central
District - Maple,
Cambridge
Conservation Authority
- Credit Valley

County - Wellington,
Peel R.M.
Township - Erin
Con. VIII-XI
Lots 26-30
Township - Caledon
Con. IV-VI
Lots 25-28

Latitude - 43° 50′
Longitude - 80° 07′

Total Size - 411.2 ha
Class - 2
Type of Wetland -
95 per cent swamp
5 per cent marsh



General Description

The Alton-Hillsburgh complex is composed of seven individual wetlands, ranging in size from 1.8 to 330.6 ha, and is located less than 10 kilometres south of Orangeville. The dominant site type is palustrine; the part of the wetland bordering the Credit River is riverine. The wetland area comprises five per cent of its 88 square kilometre catchment basin, giving it some value for flow augmentation of local watercourses. Its large surface area allows the wetland to function as a floodwater detention area. However, the importance of this feature is diminished somewhat by the numerous detention areas located above and below the wetland. Alton-Hillsburgh wetland complex is hydrologically connected to Caledon Lake wetland providing habitat linkage for wildlife. Soils are mainly sandy loams and organic muck.

There is a high diversity of vegetation communities in the wetland but little interspersion of vegetation forms. The swamp is dominated by White Birch, Eastern White Cedar, poplars and dogwoods mixed with Jewelweed, sedges, grasses and mosses. These areas are interspersed with small marsh areas in which Black Ash, meadowsweets, cattails, willows, sedges and grasses predominate. Less than five per cent of the wetland area is covered by open water; Muskgrass is the dominant vegetation in these areas. A number of regionally significant plant species are found in this wetland complex including Cotton-grass, Round-leaved Sundew, Watermeal and Brook Lobelia.

The wetland provides good winter cover for deer as well as a spawning and rearing habitat for Brook Trout. The area is locally significant for waterfowl production. Valuable resources found in the wetland include a good cover of mature timber, Raccoons, Beavers, Mink and an abundance of baitfish.

The Alton-Hillsburgh wetland complex is all privately owned. It is within the Niagara Escarpment Planning Area and subject to the Niagara Escarpment Plan. There are a few localized disturbances to the wetland including roads, buildings, channelization and water pollution due to cattle.

Special Features

This wetland complex provides breeding or feeding habitat for the provincially significant Northern Harrier, as well as the regionally significant Great Blue Heron and Green-backed Heron.

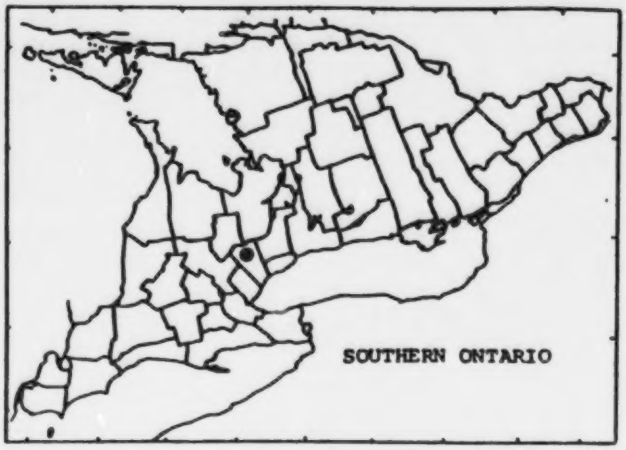
CALEDON CREEK SWAMP

Region - Central
District - Maple
Conservation Authority
- Metro Toronto Region,
  Credit Valley

Regional Municipality
  - Peel
Township - Caledon
Con. III Lots 16-17
  IV 17-23

Latitude - 43° 55'
Longitude - 79° 59'

Total Size - 148.7 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
  91 per cent swamp
  9 per cent marsh



General Description

The Caledon Creek Swamp, a headwater area for the Credit River, is a complex of five individual wetland areas ranging in size from 2.4 to 97.3 ha. The complex consists of scattered swamp communities and several small marsh areas along meandering streams. Several of the wetland areas are connected by intermittent stream flow.

Swamp areas are dominated by dead trees, deciduous trees or shrubs; a typical community combines several strata to include deciduous trees (ash, maple, birch, elm, poplar), shrubs (dogwood, alder, willow), grasses and asters. Conifers (Balsam Fir, cedar) are also common. In the marsh areas Water Parsnip, cattails, bulrushes and asters are common.

Surrounding the wetland, deciduous and coniferous forests, urban areas, crop and pasture land, abandoned fields, hills and creeks provide a diversity of habitats. The Caledon Creek Swamp complex is connected by surface water to the Sleswick complex. The wetland is palustrine and soils are mineral.

Timber is abundant and Bullfrogs, Raccoons and Beavers represent other resources with potential economic value. Some hunting occurs but the area is not used for other recreational or educational activities. There are some localized human disturbances in the form of roads, buildings and filling. A small portion of the area is publicly owned but most is on private land.

Special Features

Caledon Creek Swamp is regionally significant for the presence of several species including the Cardinal Flower, Pileated Woodpecker and Great Blue Heron. The swamp is also locally significant for waterfowl staging and production and as winter cover for deer.

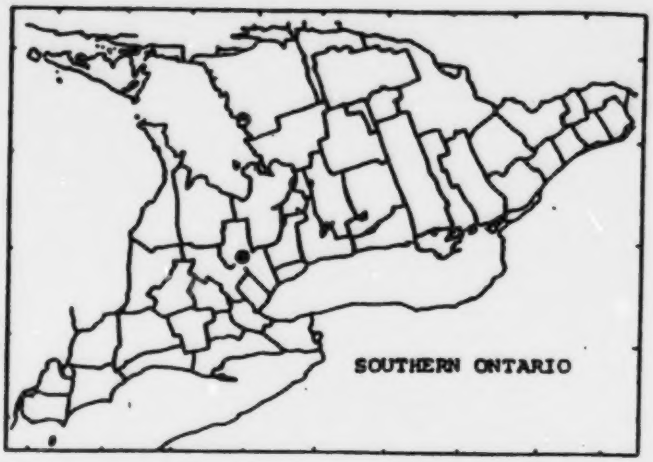
CALEDON LAKE

Region - Central
District - Huronia,
Maple
Conservation Authority
- Credit Valley

County - Peel R.M.,
Dufferin
Township - Caledon
Con. III-VI
Lots 28-31
Township - East Garafraxa
Con. A Lots 1
B 1,2
C 1
XIX 2,3

Latitude - 43° 52′
Longitude - 80° 06′

Total Size - 589 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
91 per cent swamp
7 per cent marsh
2 per cent fen



General Description

This wetland complex consists of nine individual wetlands. The largest is a swamp area of 554.6 ha. The other components are smaller wetlands ranging in size from 1.8 ha to 11.2 ha. Soils are primarily organic, with the remainder being mineral. The dominant site type is palustrine but a smaller lacustrine portion borders on Caledon Lake. The wetland is quite effective in flow stabilization.

Vegetation communities in the wetland are extremely diverse. In the swamp area several communities are present containing Balsam Poplar, White Cedar, Balsam Fir, Jewelweed, Joe-pye Weed, dogwoods, alders and mosses. These are interspersed with numerous small communities composed of highly diverse vegetation types. Marsh and bog areas are dominated by Reed Canary Grass, willows, dead conifers, meadowsweet and sedges.

There is an abundance of mature trees in the swamp. Fish are plentiful. Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles and furbearers including Muskrats, Raccoons, Beavers, Mink, weasels, Coyotes and Red Foxes are present. The Caledon Lake wetland is used extensively for nature appreciation, fishing and boating. There are frequent educational visits with groups from the Peel Board of Education making use of the wetland. A system of trails and a staffed interpretation centre complement these activities.

Cottages and pollution associated with their septic tanks have affected the natural quality of the area to some extent. Further disturbance has been caused by the extraction of marl from the area. Publicly owned property makes up 60 per cent of the area.

Special Features

Hill's Pondweed, a provincially significant species, and 16 regionally significant plant species are found in the Caledon Lake wetland. The area is a spawning site for Rainbow and Brook Trout and there are extensive marl deposits in the wetland.

CARRUTHER'S CREEK MARSH

Region - Central
District - Maple
Conservation Authority
- Metro Toronto Region

Regional Municipality
- Durham
Township - Pickering
Con. I
Lots 4-5

Latitude - 43^{o} 49'
Longitude - 78^{o} 59'

Total Size - 12.9 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
100 per cent marsh

General Description

Carruther's Creek Marsh, also known as Shoal Point, is a small lacustrine wetland located on the eastern edge of Ajax. It is connected to Lake Ontario by an intermittent channel which passes through a barrier beach. As it is adjacent to Lake Ontario, the marsh is of little hydrological significance.

Habitats surrounding the wetland are quite diverse; as well as the open water habitat of Lake Ontario there are crop and pasture lands, abandoned fields, deciduous forest and the urban development of Ajax. Much of the area of the marsh is open water, primarily in a large pond. Bordering this pond to the east and north are the marsh communities. To the west and south are roads.

There are three main vegetation communities in the wetland. The largest, which extends along the length of the pond and up the stream draining into it, is dominated by cattail and herbs. A second community, which occurs in patches within the main community, is primarily cattails and sedges. A small area at the base of the marsh is covered by water lilies.

The wetland area provides habitat for a number of commercially harvestable fish species although fishing by local residents has declined in recent years. Muskrats, Raccoons and Beavers are all present as well. Some nature appreciation takes place in the wetland but in general the area receives little recreational use. There are infrequent educational visits by the Toronto Field Naturalists.

There are several localized human disturbances in the marsh. Roads and buildings are encroaching on the wetland, and drainage and filling have affected it. Water pollution in the wetland is serious and large articles of refuse, such as abandoned furniture, have been thrown into the creek from a bridge.

The marsh is owned by two corporations which have restricted access to the area to preserve it as a wildlife sanctuary.

Special Features

Eight provincially significant animal species have been observed in the Carruther's Creek Marsh. There are also 23 regionally significant plant species in the wetland. The marsh is a feeding area for the Great Blue Heron and is highly significant as a stopover area for migratory passerine birds. The wetland is a regionally significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI).

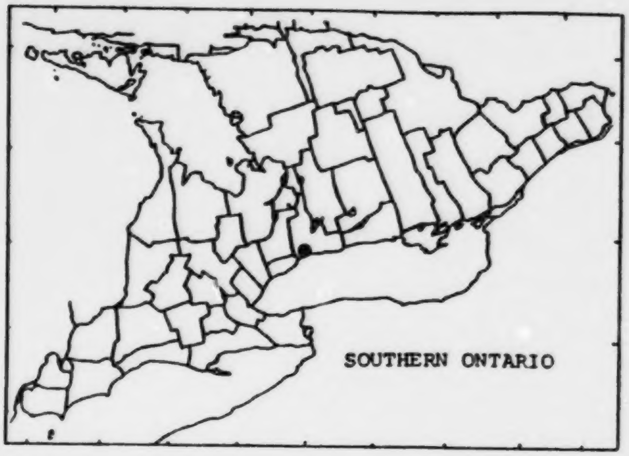
FRENCHMAN'S BAY

Region - Central
District - Maple
Conservation Authority
- Metro Toronto Region

Regional Municipality
- Durham
Township - Pickering
Con. I
Lots 20-25

Latitude - 43° 49′
Longitude - 79° 05′

Total Size - 45.2 ha
Class - 2
Type of Wetland -
88 per cent marsh
12 per cent swamp



General Description

This small wetland is located just west of Ontario Hydro's Pickering Nuclear Generating Station, in the town of Pickering. The wetland is a complex of five individual areas ranging in size from 0.5 to 19.7 ha located around the periphery of Frenchman's Bay; the largest wetland area is at the mouth of a stream flowing into the bay. Soils in the wetland are primarily silt, which has been deposited by the inflowing watercourses. Frenchman's Bay is sheltered by a barrier beach, but is hydrologically connected to Lake Ontario. Thus, the wetland is of little value for stabilizing the flow of local streams.

The marsh is dominated by cattails, grasses and sedges, with submergents bordering the open water of the bay. Marsh areas are bordered by small patches of old field communities dominated by goldenrod, clover and Coltsfoot, and by scrub communities in which Manitoba Maple and Black Willow predominate.

The marsh provides suitable spawning habitat for Northern Pike. Carp, which are abundant during at least part of the year, can uproot and destroy aquatic vegetation, an activity considered detrimental to the spawning success of several fish species. Hunting is prohibited in this wetland, but there is a high intensity of fishing and boating activity. The area is also visited occasionally by groups such as the Pickering Naturalists for nature appreciation and study. Disturbances to the wetland are few, primarily some localized water pollution.

Special Features

The Black-crowned Night-Heron, Black Tern and Marsh Wren, all provincially significant species, utilize this wetland for breeding or feeding habitat.

HOLLAND MARSH

Region - Central
District - Maple,
Huronia
Conservation Authority
- South Lake Simcoe

Counties - Simcoe,
York R.M.
Townships - West Gwillumbury,
East Gwillumbury,
King, Georgina

Latitude - 44° 11'
Longitude - 79° 31'

Total Size - 3206 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
53.1 per cent marsh
35.9 per cent swamp
10.6 per cent fen
0.4 per cent bog

General Description

The Holland Marsh is a large wetland area that follows the Schomberg River from Highway 11, and the Holland River East Branch from Holland Landing to their confluence, and then the Holland River to Cook's Bay on Lake Simcoe. All wetland types are represented, and site types include riverine areas, lacustrine at a river mouth, and lacustrine exposed to a lake. Due largely to the proximity of Lake Simcoe, the area is of little significance in terms of flow stabilization. It is, however, important in water quality improvement, and controls erosion to some extent.

Several large vegetation communities dominate a major portion of the wetland area. Large areas of cattails are located along the Holland River and protrude into the surrounding agricultural land to the east. A mixed community of bulrush, cattail, and Tape Grass occupies a large portion of the southern end of Cook's Bay, and mixed communities of grasses, sedges, and herbs are dominant near the mouth of the Holland River. Deciduous forests, including aspen, maple, and willow, with grasses, herbs, and sedges as ground cover dominate along much of the upland border of the area.

Few of the trees are suitable for timber. Wild Rice, Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles, Muskrats, Raccoons, Beavers, Mink, Red Foxes and weasels are found in the Holland Marsh.

The area receives a moderate amount of use for nature appreciation. Hunting, fishing, and boating are all very popular activities in the wetland. The popularity of boating, however, has contributed to the degradation of the natural quality of the area. There is a marina located on the Holland River East Branch, and the river has been dredged to accommodate this. Further human disturbances include roads, a powerline, channelization, drainage, filling, and some pollution.

There are frequent educational visits to the Holland Marsh by groups such as the University of Toronto Conservation Club and the South Lake Simcoe Field Naturalists. Numerous publications deal with various aspects of the wetland. Forty-four percent of the area is publicly owned.

Special Features

Holland Marsh provides habitat for five provincially significant birds (Least Tern, Black Tern, Caspian Tern, Marsh Wren, Sedge Wren), and 11 provincially significant plant species. Also present are 44 species of regionally significant plants and animals. The area provides winter cover for White-tailed Deer, and is a waterfowl staging and production site. It is also a regionally significant spawning area for at least 11 species of fish. These many values have gained the wetland recognition as a provincially significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI).

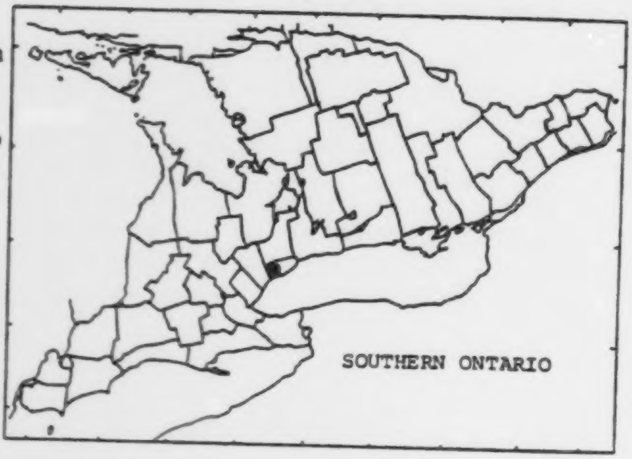
HUMBER RIVER MARSHES

Region - Central
District - Maple
Conservation Authority-
Metro Toronto Region

Regional Municipality
- Metropolitan Toronto
Township - City of
Etobicoke

Latitude - 43° 38'
Longitude - 79° 29'

Total Size - 19 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
100 per cent marsh



General Description

The Humber River Marshes consist of a string of five wetlands, located between Bloor Street and Lake Ontario, in Metropolitan Toronto. Because of its proximity to Lake Ontario, the wetland is of little hydrological value.

The marshes contain a number of vegetation communities including open water ponds with submergents and floating plants, particularly White Water Lily. Stands of Purple Loosestrife and cattails occur along the edges of the open water. Alongside the marshes is a semi-open mature forest dominated by Manitoba Maple, Eastern Cottonwood and willows.

The Great Blue Heron has been sighted in the area during the past several years; the heron utilizes the cottonwood community as a roosting area. The regionally significant Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Hooded Merganser and American Coot are also found in this area. Other species of interest inhabiting the Humber Marshes include Blanding's Turtle, Stinkpot Turtle, Northern Ring-necked Snake, Milk Snake, Northern Water Snake, Redbellied Snake and Wood Frog.

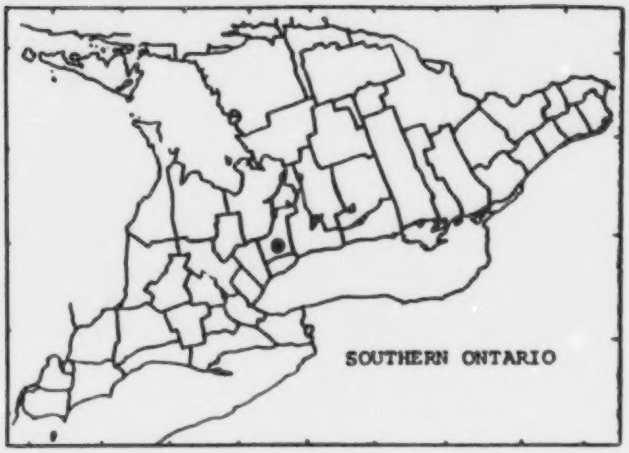
The marshes and most of the surrounding area are publicly owned and used extensively for boating and fishing. The area is frequented by naturalists for birdwatching and botanical outings.

Because of its location, the Humber River wetland is subject to intense human disturbance. The river is heavily polluted and noise from motorboats and other sources disturbs the wildlife.

Special Features

The Caspian Tern is often seen in large numbers along the Humber River, especially in the lower marshes. The wetland also provides habitat for the provincially rare Least Bittern, Black-crowned Night-Heron and Black Tern. Rare plant species found in the wetland include the White Trout Lily and Sassafras. The marshes are located in a highly populated urban area and provide a refuge for many species, particularly water birds, passing through the area.

MUSSELMAN LAKE



Region - Central
District - Maple
Conservation Authority
- South Lake Simcoe

Regional Municipality
- York
Township - Whitchurch
Con. VIII
Lots 16,17,18

Latitude - 44° 01′
Longitude - 79° 18′

Total Size - 49.4 ha
Class - 2
Type of Wetland -
80.2 per cent swamp
10.9 per cent marsh
8.9 per cent bog

General Description

The Musselman Lake wetland is a palustrine area on the west side of Musselman Lake, between the lake and Highway 48. Soils are mainly organic muck, with some mineral types. It is of little hydrological significance and is connected by surface water to Musselman Lake. There is little open water in the wetland.

Several vegetation zones are present in this small area including a small pond, marshes, moist woods, acid shrub-swamp and bog. Swamp vegetation communities cover most of the wetland with a large community of Jewelweed, birches, dogwoods and grasses surrounded by smaller communities of Black Ash, dogwoods, ferns and grasses. At the western end of the wetland area several small marsh and bog communities are well interspersed with swamp communities. Marshes are dominated by Water Willow, cattails, grasses, submergents and duckweeds with Tamarack, birches and mosses in bog areas.

Timber is abundant in the wetland. Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles and furbearers such as Muskrats, Raccoons, Beavers and Mink are found in the area.

Several sources of human disturbance have led to a moderate deterioration in the natural quality of the area. Roads, drainage, water pollution, peat extraction and runoff from a sanitation landfill site have all disrupted the wetland.

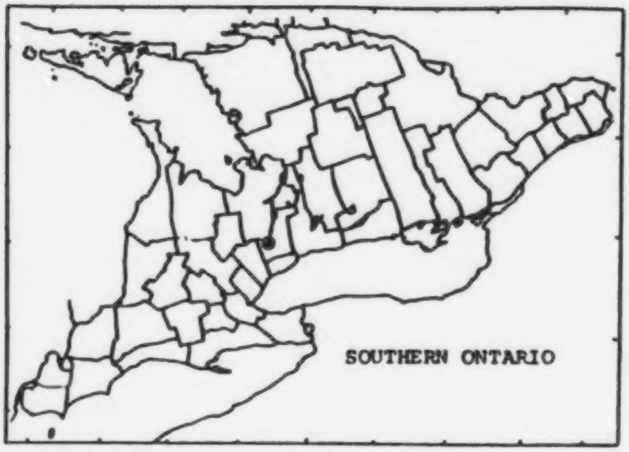
Nature appreciation is the only recreational activity that takes place in the wetland. The area is visited frequently by educational groups. The area is easily accessible and is privately owned.

Special Features

Two provincially significant plant species are found in the Musselman Lake wetland: Cream Violet and Ginseng. The wetland is also a feeding area for the Great Blue Heron and provides locally important winter cover for the White-tailed Deer. The wetland is recognized as a provincially significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI).

POTTAGEVILLE SWAMP

Region - Central
District - Maple, Huronia
Conservation Authority
- South Lake Simcoe



County - York R.M.,
Simcoe
Township - King
Con. VI-VII, Lots 30-35
Township - W. Gwillinbury
Con. I, Lots 1-3
Con. II, Lots 4-5
Township - Tecumseth
Con. I, Lots 23-24

Latitude - 44° 01'
Longitude - 79° 38'

Total Size - 442.2 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
84.4 per cent swamp
15.5 per cent marsh
0.1 per cent bog

General Description

The Pottageville Swamp complex consists of ten individual wetlands ranging in size from 0.9 to 408.4 ha. The area extends south from north of Highway 9 to the village of Pottageville at the southern end of the Holland Marsh system. It is primarily a swamp with small marsh and bog areas. Soils are poorly drained peat and muck.

The bog and the surrounding conifer swamp are dominated by Tamarack and mosses. The large central region of the area has mainly Black Ash, Red Maple and Balsam Fir dominating the upper stratum with Speckled Alder and willow shrubs also common. These communities are moderately well interspersed and habitats surrounding the wetland are quite diverse with agricultural lands, deciduous forests and fence rows all present.

The Pottageville complex is primarily a palustrine wetland with several small streams running through it. It is one of the few remaining wetlands along the southern part of the Holland Marsh. Much of the original marsh downstream from this area has been drained for agricultural use.

Because of its size and its location upstream from agricultural areas the Pottageville wetland is quite significant for flow stabilization and moderately effective for water quality improvement.

Recreational use of the area consists primarily of hunting and fishing, although some nature appreciation and boating also occur. Human disturbance of the wetland has resulted in severe impairment of its natural quality in some areas. Drainage and channelization have dried out portions of the wetland and cattle graze in parts of it. Vegetation in some areas is shifting from wetland to upland forms. Also, a gas pipeline crosses the complex.

A small part of the area (6 per cent) is publicly owned. The Pottageville complex is easily reached by road.

Special Features

Regionally significant birds such as the Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk and Long-eared Owl have nested in the Pottageville Swamp and 12 species of regionally significant plants have been reported from this area. The area is a nesting site for the Green-backed Heron and provides local winter cover for White-tailed Deer. It is also known to be a fish spawning area. The swamp is also a provincially significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI).

RATTRAY MARSH

Region - Central
District - Maple
Conservation Authority
- Credit Valley

Regional
Municipality - Peel
Township - Mississauga
Con. III
Lots 25, 26

Latitude - 43° 30′
Longitude - 79° 36′

Total Size - 9.8 ha.
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
82% marsh
18% swamp

General Description

Rattray Marsh is composed of two individual wetlands, 0.9 and 8.9 ha in size. The larger area is almost entirely marsh, while the smaller one is half swamp and half marsh. Soils are mostly mineral types with a small portion organic. Because it is located on Lake Ontario the wetland is of little value in flow stabilization.

The wetland is surrounded on three sides by housing developments, but is close to deciduous and coniferous woods. A large pond, separated from Lake Ontario by a barrier beach, comprises a significant portion of the wetland. Dominant plant species in marsh areas are Jewelweed, Marsh Marigold, cattails and duckweeds. Swamp communities, which are located in isolated areas on creeks draining into the pond, consist mainly of Jewelweed, alders, willows and ashes.

The marsh is heavily used for nature appreciation and education, with group visits from the South Peel Naturalists, Erindale College and the Rattray Marsh Protection Association. There is a system of self-guiding trails through the area and literature is available. Numerous publications deal with different aspects of Rattray Marsh.

Human disturbance is severe in some areas. The wetland has been affected by the surrounding housing developments and by drainage related to past agricultural uses of the area. Landfilling, water pollution and the presence of a sewage pipeline under the marsh also affect the wetland.

Special Features

Rattray Marsh is a conservation area under the jurisdiction of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority. The Great Blue Heron and Black-crowned Night-Heron regularly frequent the marsh. The provincially significant Marsh Wren occurs here as do several regionally significant plant species including Swamp Candles, Meadow Horsetail and Turk's Cap Lily. The area has very diverse terrain for the region and is the only natural pond that still exists on Lake Ontario between Toronto and Hamilton.

ROUGE RIVER WETLAND

Region - Central
District - Maple
Conservation Authority
- Metro Toronto Region

Regional Municipality
- Durham
Township - Pickering
Con. I
Lots 30-33

Latitude - 43° 47'
Longitude - 79° 07'

Total Size - 55.7 ha
Class - 2
Type of Wetland -
58 per cent marsh
42 per cent swamp

General Description

This small lacustrine wetland is located at the mouth of the Rouge River in the town of Pickering. The wetland has little hydrological significance because of the overwhelming effect of nearby Lake Ontario.

There is a high diversity of vegetation communities in the wetland with medium interspersion of these communities. Marsh areas are dominated by cattails, sedges, grasses and stands of forest on the valley walls and in the flood plain. The marsh is bounded by trees and shrubs such as Red-osier Dogwood, Speckled Alder and willows. Floodplain communities consist primarily of mature Manitoba Maple and Black Willow forest with small areas of standing water. Vegetation along the valley walls consists of mature communities dominated by Red Oak, Sugar Maple and Eastern Hemlock. Regionally significant species inhabiting the Rouge River wetland include the Great Blue Heron and American Coot.

Hunting is prohibited in this wetland, but fishing and boating are common activities. The area is frequented by groups such as the Toronto Field Naturalists for nature appreciation and study. Carp, which are abundant in this wetland, can uproot and destroy aquatic vegetation, an activity considered detrimental to the spawning success of several fish species. Other resources present include Muskrats, Raccoons and Beavers.

Because of its proximity to an urban area, the Rouge River wetland is threatened by pollution and noise.

Special Features

This wetland provides habitat for the provincially significant Black-crowned Night-Heron, Black Tern and Marsh Wren. The Bald Eagle occasionally visits the Rouge River wetland during migration. The provincially rare Shy Bulrush is also found here. The parks branch of the Ministry of Natural Resources recognizes the site as a provincially significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI). It is also a "critical unprotected natural area" of the Carolinian zone (see Glossary).

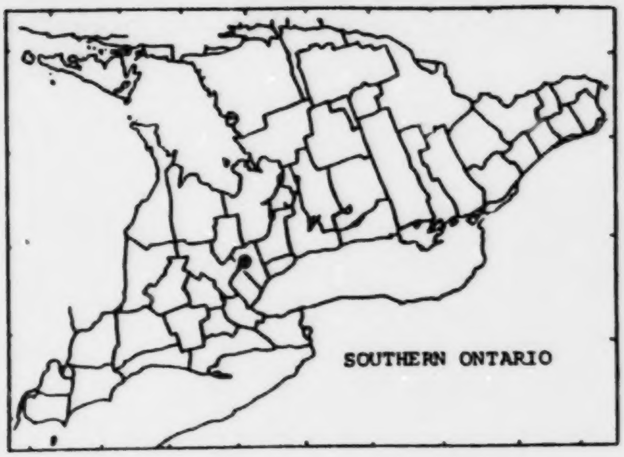
SLESWICK COMPLEX

Region - Central
District - Maple
Conservation Authority
- Metro Toronto Region

Regional Municipality
- Peel
Township - Caledon
Con. V
Lots 16-21

Latitude - 43° 55′
Longitude - 79° 58′

Total Size - 95.5 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
100 per cent swamp



General Description

The Sleswick complex is composed of eight individual wetland areas located southwest of the village of Mono Mills. It is a headwater area for the Humber River and consists of palustrine wetlands interspersed with forest, pine plantation and agricultural land. Urban areas also border on the wetland. The area is connected by surface water to the Caledon Creek Swamp.

The swamp is dominated by willows and ashes and maple communities. There are 18 vegetation communities in the area that combine the dominant deciduous trees with various shrubs (dogwood, alder, birch), grasses, sedges and ground cover. Communities vary in amount of standing water present, but open water is abundant in the wetland and is dispersed in small areas thoughout the communities. Resources present are Snapping Turtles, Raccoons and Beavers.

The area receives little recreational and educational use. Human disturbance in the wetland is present in localized areas in the form of roads, buildings and drainage and has affected portions of the swamp quite severely. One-quarter of the swamp is publicly owned.

Special Features

The Cardinal Flower, Long Haired Sedge, Downy

Rattlesnake Plantain, Ground Cedar, White-throated Sparrow and Great Blue Heron are regionally significant species found in the Sleswick wetland. The area is also locally significant as winter cover for the White-tailed Deer and as a waterfowl staging and production site.

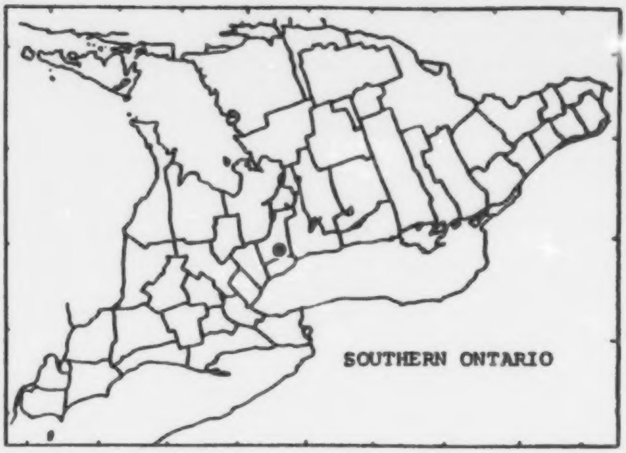
UNIONVILLE MARSH

Region - Central
District - Maple
Conservation Authority
- Metro Toronto Region

Regional Municipality
- York
Township - Markham
Con. V
Lots 13,14,15

Latitude - 43° 52'
Longitude - 79° 19'

Total Size - 5.2 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
85 per cent marsh
15 per cent swamp



General Description

Unionville Marsh is a small wetland located on the Rouge River in the town of Unionville. Because this wetland is located near mid-river with urban and agricultural land downstream, it is of some value for flow stabilization. However, its importance in controlling excess water levels is probably reduced because of the dam on the river just below the wetland. Unionville Marsh consists of three vegetation communities. The shallow reservoir, or Too Good Pond, has a submergent flora with a cattail and sedge marsh at the north end. A small willow community occurs further north along the river.

The regionally significant Great Blue Heron, as well as the Caspian and Black Tern, feed in the wetland. The regionally significant Cooper's Hawk has been found in the swamp portion of the Unionville Marsh.

The area is owned by the town of Markham and is operated as a park. Access to the wetland is easy and unrestricted. Boating and nature appreciation are the most common recreational acivities occurring in the marsh.

Urban pressures on this wetland are quite pronounced. Housing developments already extend to the edge of the marsh and new developments are under construction. The area around the reservoir is a carefully manicured parkland, providing little suitable wildlife habitat. Other disturbances include channelization, water pollution, noise and removal of floating vegetation.

Special Features

Provincially significant birds such as the American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Redhead, Black Tern, Caspian Tern and Marsh Wren have occurred at the Unionville Marsh.

CAMBRIDGE DISTRICT

Wetland	Class	County or Regional Municipality	page
Beverly Swamp	1	Hamilton-Wentworth, Waterloo	167
Black River Swamp	1	Oxford	169
Calcium Pits Swamp	2	Halton	171
Cootes Paradise	1	Hamilton-Wentworth	173
Eramosa River Swamp	1	Wellington, Halton	175
Galt Creek Swamp	1	Wellington, Waterloo	177
Luther Marsh	1	Wellington, Dufferin	179
Roseville Swamp	1	Waterloo	181
Silver Creek Swamp	3	Halton	183

BEVERLY SWAMP

Region - Central
District - Cambridge
Conservation Authority
- Hamilton, Halton,
Grand River

Regional Municipality
- Hamilton-Wentworth,
Waterloo
Township - Beverly
Con. VII-X, Lots 12-36
Township - West Flamborough
Con. VIII-X, Lots 1-5
Township - North Dumfries
Con. VII-IX, Lots 7-11

Latitude - 43° 22′
Longitude - 80° 05′

Total Size - 1876 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
96 per cent swamp
4 per cent marsh

General Description

This large swamp is located less than 10 km east of the city of Cambridge. Most of the wetland adjacent to Spencer Creek is riverine; a portion of the wetland is palustrine. The wetland's large surface area gives the swamp value for flow stabilization which is particularly important since much of the land in the catchment basin is agricultural. Soils are primarily organic.

The wetland supports many interesting regionally significant bird and mammal species including Long-eared Owl, Cerulean Warbler, Woodland Jumping Mouse, Northern Flying Squirrel, Green Sunfish, Blanding's Turtle and Pickerel Frog. The swamp also contains a Great Blue Heron colony. In 1984 the colony had over 100 active nests. Beverly Swamp also supports many regionally significant plants including several fern and orchid species. Wild Turkeys found in Beverly Swamp are probably the descendants of released or pen-reared birds.

Resources present in the wetland include Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles, furbearers such as Muskrats, Raccoons, Beavers, Mink, Red Foxes and Coyotes, and a good cover of mature timber. In addition, bait fish are abundant during at least part of the year.

Twenty-one per cent of Beverly Swamp is publicly owned. Most areas in the wetland are easily accessible, although some require a moderate amount of effort to enter. There is a considerable amount of hunting activity in the wetland and the area is visited frequently by public and secondary schools and other groups for nature appreciation and education. Some fishing and canoeing also take place.

There is a moderate level of human disturbance in Beverly Swamp due to roads, buildings, a utility corridor, drainage, filling, water pollution and peat extraction.

Special Features

Beverly Swamp provides habitat for many provincially significant animals including the Redside Dace, Wood Turtle, Eastern Fox Snake, Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake, Silvery Salamander, Tremblay's Salamander, Blue-spotted Salamander, Northern Harrier, Red-shouldered Hawk and Virginia Opossum. Among the 48 regionally rare plant species found in the wetland are the Grass Pink, Northern Coralroot, Moccasin Flower, Sweet Gale and Spicebush. These and other values have resulted in recognition of the site as a provincially significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI). Beverly Swamp is among the 36 "critical unprotected natural areas" in the Carolinian zone of Ontario (see Carolinian Canada in Glossary).

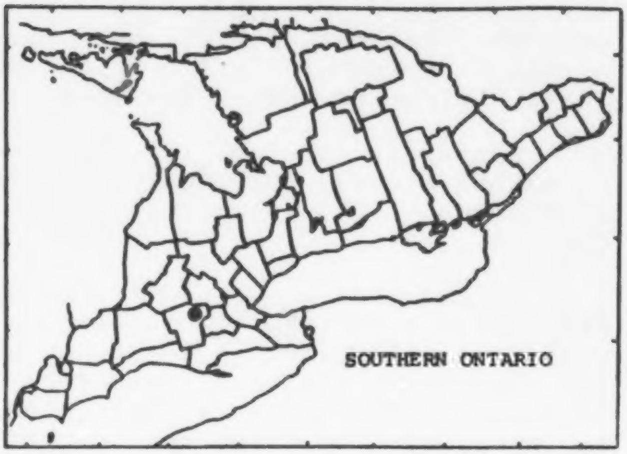
BLACK RIVER SWAMP

Region - Central
District - Cambridge
Conservation Authority
- Grand River

County - Oxford
Township - Blenheim
Con. VI-XII
Lots 11-23

Latitude - 43° 15′
Longitude - 80° 35′

Total Size - 775.1 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
94 per cent swamp
4 per cent fen
2 per cent marsh



General Description

The Black River is a narrow sluggish stream which meanders through this swamp to join the Nith River south of the village of Washington. Along the Black River the wetland is mainly riverine; a portion of it is palustrine. Its large surface area, along with the lack of detention areas above or below the wetland, gives the swamp value for detention of floodwaters. This is particularly important because of the urban area located along the wetland's outflow. The wetland comprises 15 per cent of its 50 square kilometre catchment basin, making the area important for flow augmentation. The swamp's ability to remove nutrients on a short-term basis is valuable here, since the land in the catchment basin is mainly urban and agricultural. Black River Swamp is hydrologically connected by surface water to another wetland less than 1.5 kilometres away, providing habitat linkage for wildlife. Soils are primarily organic.

The northern character of this swamp is exemplified by the presence of Black Spruce and Balsam Fir. Interspersion of vegetation forms is low here. The area supports many regionally significant plant species including several ferns, orchids and trees.

The wetland provides regionally significant winter cover for deer and is a locally significant waterfowl staging and production area. A colony of Great Blue Herons in the Black River Swamp has grown from about 15 nests in 1978 to 80-100 active nests in 1984. Some characteristically northern birds found in the Black River Swamp which are at their range limits in Ontario include the Broad-winged Hawk, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Nashville Warbler, Purple Finch and White-throated Sparrow. The area provides habitat for a number of regionally significant animal species including Blanding's Turtle, Red-bellied Snake, Porcupine and several bird species.

Resources present in the wetland include a good cover of mature trees, Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles and furbearers such as Muskrats, Raccoons, Beavers, Mink, Red Foxes and Coyotes.

Ninety-two per cent of the swamp is privately owned. There is a high level of hunting activity in the wetland as well as some nature appreciation and fishing. The wetland is a regionally significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) known as Wolverton Swamp. It is considered an alternate "critical unprotected natural area" of the Carolinian zone of Ontario (see Carolinian Canada in Glossary).

There is intense human disturbance in some areas of Black River Swamp due to roads, buildings, a pipeline, channelization, drainage, filling and water pollution.

Special Features

The Black River Swamp provides breeding or feeding habitat for the provincially significant Northern Harrier, Louisiana Waterthrush, Southern Bog Lemming and Four-toed Salamander. The area is also important for its hydrological functions.

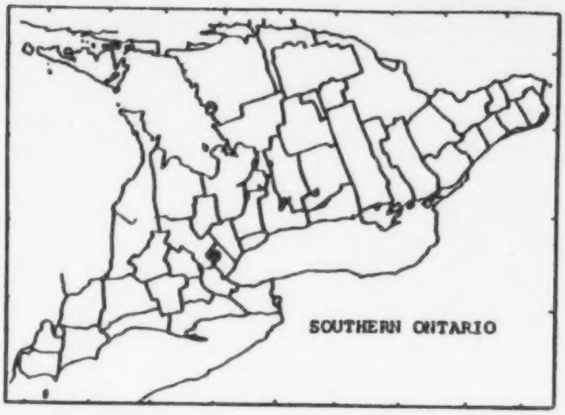
CALCIUM PITS SWAMP

Region - Central
District - Cambridge
Conservation Authority
- Halton Region

Regional Municipality
- Halton
Township - Town of Milton
Con. II-IV Lots 11-15

Latitude - 43° 27′
Longitude - 79° 56′

Total Size - 50.5 ha
Class - 2
Type of Wetland -
93 per cent swamp
7 per cent marsh



General Description

This riverine swamp is located a few kilometres south of the town of Milton near the headwaters of Bronte Creek. The Crawford Lake Conservation Area is located at the northeastern end of the wetland.

There is a high diversity of vegetation in the swamp but little interspersion of vegetation communities. The small marsh regions consist mainly of rushes, dead trees, duckweeds and emergents. Maples, cedars, poplars, ashes and willows mixed with Sensitive Fern, Jewelweed, horsetails and grasses predominate in swamp areas. Regionally significant plants found at Calcium Pits include several sedge and orchid species. The wetland also provides good winter cover for deer.

Thirty per cent of the wetland is privately owned. It is within the Niagara Escarpment Planning Area and subject to the Niagara Escarpment Plan. Some hunting and fishing occurs here and the area is frequented by school groups and others visiting the Crawford Lake Conservation Area for nature appreciation and study. There is currently a system of trails in the conservation area and programs for nature study are being developed.

Localized disturbances to the Calcium Pits wetland include roads and marl mining.

Special Features

This swamp supports the provincially significant Large Round-leaved Orchid. The wetland also contains three unusual physiographic features: an outflow from a glacial meromictic lake, an escarpment trench and an ancient abandoned glacial waterfall.

COOTES PARADISE

Region - Central
District - Cambridge
Conservation Authority
- Hamilton Region

Regional Municipality
- Hamilton-Wentworth
Township - West Flamborough,
Town of Dundas

Latitude - 43^{o} 16'
Longitude - 79^{o} 55'

Total Size - 121.7 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
19 per cent marsh
81 per cent swamp

General Description

This wetland is located in the northwest corner of the city of Hamilton. Its site type is lacustrine, on an enclosed bay of Hamilton Harbour. Open water covers almost half of the wetland area.

There is a high diversity of vegetation communities in Cootes Paradise. Open water areas are dominated by submergents such as pondweeds and waterweeds. The central area is predominantly Black Willow, herbs, grasses and sedges. Regionally significant plants present include Tall Thoroughwort, Flowering Dogwood, Clinton's Fern, Bottle Gentian, Sassafras and Spice Bush.

Cootes Paradise provides a spawning and rearing area for fish and habitat for the regionally significant Tadpole Madtom, Blanding's Turtle and Virginia Rail. Resources in the wetland include Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles, Muskrats, Raccoons and Mink.

Cootes Paradise is all public land and is easily accessible at most times of the year. There is a high level of boating and fishing in the wetland but hunting is prohibited. The area is frequented by school groups and others for nature appreciation and educational purposes; these activities are enhanced by a staffed interpretation centre, trails and literature.

There is severe, localized water pollution at Cootes Paradise due to outflow from a nearby sewage treatment plant.

Special Features

This wetland provides breeding or feeding habitat for the provincially significant Spiny Softshell Turtle, Wood Turtle, Least Bittern, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Black Tern and Marsh Wren. It also supports seven provincially rare plants including Yellow Mandarin, Green Violet, Winged Loosestrife and Stiff Goldenrod. Cootes Paradise is considered a provincially significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI).

ERAMOSA RIVER SWAMP

Region - Central
District - Cambridge
Conservation Authority
- Grand River

County - Wellington,
Halton R.M.
Townships - Erin, Puslinch,
Esquesing, Eramosa,
Nassagaweya

Latitude - 43° 38'
Longitude - 80° 09'

Total Size - 1045 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
95 per cent swamp
5 per cent marsh

General Description

This large wetland, also known as Blue Springs Creek wetland, is located a few kilometres east of Guelph. The dominant site type is riverine, along the Eramosa River. Blue Springs Creek, a small spring-fed creek with its source southwest of Acton, is the main tributary of the Eramosa River which is itself a tributary of the Grand River.

Its large surface area gives the wetland some value for detention of flood waters, important because of the urban area located along its outflow. The wetland area comprises four per cent of its 251 square kilometre catchment basin, giving it value for flow augmentation during dry weather. The wetland is hydrologically connected to another wetland within 0.5 kilometres, providing habitat linkage for wildlife. An unusual geological feature in this area is the presence of glacial potholes. Soils are primarily organic.

This swamp has a low interspersion of vegetation forms but a high diversity of vegetation communities. Many regionally significant plants including ferns, sedges and orchids grow in the Eramosa River swamp.

The high diversity of habitats at the Eramosa River wetland provides regionally significant winter cover for the White-tailed Deer and a feeding area for the Great Blue

Heron. The area is also regionally significant for the spawning and rearing of Brook Trout and Brown Trout and locally important for waterfowl production. The wetland provides habitat for a number of regionally significant animal species including the Milk Snake, Pickerel Frog, Canada Lynx, Bobcat and many bird species.

Resources present at Eramosa River wetland include a stand of mature timber, Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles and furbearers such as Muskrats, Raccoons, Beavers and Mink. Bait fish are harvested from the wetland.

Ninety-five per cent of the Eramosa River swamp is privately-owned. The wetland is easily accessible at most times of the year. Boating and nature appreciation are frequent activities and school groups often visit the area. Fishing and some hunting also occur. There is a moderate level of human disturbance in the Eramosa River wetland due to roads, a utility corridor, buildings, filling and water pollution.

Special Features

This wetland supports the provincially rare plant species Purple Cliffbrake and Carey's Sedge, and provides habitat for the provincially significant River Otter. The Eramosa River Swamp is recognized as a provincially significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI).

Township - Erin

Con.	Lots
I	10-11
II	11
III	10-17
IV	16,17
V	15-17
VI	12-15
VII	11-13
VIII	11,12

Township - Puslinch

Con.	Lots
IX	1-4
X	3,4

Township - Esquesing

Con.	Lots
I	26-30

Township - Eramosa

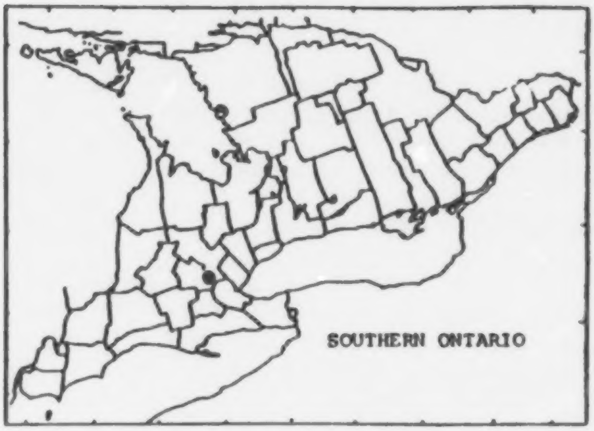
Con.	Lots
I	1
II	1-5
III	4-6
IV	4,5
V	4-9
VI	6-11
VII	10,11

Township - Nassagaweya

Con.	Lots
II	29-31
III	29-30
IV	29
V	29-30
VI	29-31
VII	29-31

GALT CREEK SWAMP

Region - Central
District - Cambridge
Conservation Authority
- Grand River



County - Wellington,
Waterloo R.M.
Township - Puslinch

Con.	Lots
Gore	2-11
I	8-23
II	14-24
III	20-24
VII	15-23
VIII	17-28
IX	18-27

Township - North Dumfries
Con. XII Lots 1-5

Latitude - 43° 25'
Longitude - 80° 13'

Total Size - 1422 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
95 per cent swamp
5 per cent marsh

General Description

This large swamp is located northeast of the city of Cambridge. The dominant site type is palustrine; the secondary type is riverine along Galt Creek which flows into the Grand River near Cambridge. Since the wetland area comprises 15 per cent of its 94 square kilometre catchment basin it is of value for flow augmentation during dry weather. Its large surface area gives the wetland value for detention of flood waters. Half of the wetland is based on organic muck, the other half is on sandy and silt loams.

There is a high diversity of vegetation communities in the Galt Creek swamp. Many regionally significant plant species are found at Galt Creek including ferns, orchids, lilies, shrubs and trees.

The wetland provides an important area of cover for White-tailed Deer in the winter and is regionally important for the spawning and rearing of Brook Trout and Brown Trout. Resources in this wetland include a stand of mature timber, bait fish, Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles and furbearers such as Muskrats, Raccoons, Beavers, Mink, Red Foxes and Coyotes.

Most of the wetland is privately-owned. There is a high level of hunting activity, moderate fishing activity and some nature appreciation and boating. The wetland is visited frequently by school groups for educational purposes.

Human disturbance to Galt Creek wetland is intense in some areas including roads, buildings, a utility corridor, channelization, drainage, filling, water pollution, grazing of cattle and sand and gravel pits.

Special Features

The Galt Creek Swamp provides habitat for the provincially significant Virginia Opossum. The area is also important for its hydrological functions. The wetland is a regionally significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI).

LUTHER MARSH

Region - Central
District - Cambridge
Conservation Authority - Grand River
County - Wellington, Dufferin
Township - East & West Luther

Con.	Lots
IV	17-23
V	14-23
VI	14-24
VII,VIII	13-21
IX	12-21
X-XII	9-20
XIII	10-18

Latitude - 43° 56′
Longitude - 80° 26′

Total Size - 3953 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
55 per cent swamp
31 per cent marsh
13 per cent bog
1 per cent fen

General Description

Luther Marsh, one of southern Ontario's larger wetland complexes, is comprised of six individual wetlands. This palustrine wetland complex comprises 36 per cent of its 108.6 square kilometre catchment basin, giving it considerable value for flow augmentation. Few other detention areas exist in the catchment basin, thus increasing the relative value of Luther Marsh as a flood water detention area.

There is a high diversity of vegetation communities in Luther. A large, shallow, marshy lake was created in 1952 after the construction of a dam across the north outlet of Luther Lake. Around this lake, lies an extensive low shrub hummock bog--the Wylde Lake Bog--as well as swamp forests, shrub swamps and marshes.

Habitat diversity is high at Luther Marsh providing a nesting area for colonial waterbirds, regionally significant winter cover for the White-tailed Deer and spawning and rearing habitat for Yellow Perch. Commercially valuable bait fish are harvested in Luther. Other resources present include mature timber, Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles and furbearers such as Muskrats, Raccoons, Beavers, Mink, Coyotes and Red Foxes.

The Luther Marsh Wildlife Management Area, containing much of the wetland, is jointly managed by the Grand River Conservation Authority and the Ministry of Natural Resources. The wetland is easily accessible at most times of the year and 70 per cent is publicly owned. Educational use of the wetland is frequent by groups from Wellington and Dufferin county schools and naturalists' clubs, including those in Guelph and Kitchener-Waterloo. Use for hunting and nature appreciation is quite high and a moderate level of use also occurs for fishing and boating. Trails are present and brochures describing the wetland are available. Human disturbance to this wetland is moderate. Disturbances include roads, channelization, drainage and water impoundment.

Special Features

A description of the special features of Luther Marsh could fill many pages, since it is a veritable mecca for wildlife. Sixteen provincially significant bird species breed in Luther Marsh, including Northern Shoveler, Canvasback, Ruddy Duck, Wilson's Phalarope, LeConte's Sparrow and Lincoln's Sparrow. The provincially significant Spotted Turtle and Butler's Garter Snake as well as the regionally significant Blanding's Turtle frequent the wetland. A nesting colony of Great Blue Herons and Black-crowned Night Herons is located at Luther. Waterfowl staging in the wetland is of provincial significance and waterfowl production is of regional significance. Due to all these natural values, Luther Marsh is a provincially significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest.

ROSEVILLE SWAMP

Region - Central
District - Cambridge
Conservation Authority
- Grand River

Regional Municipality
- Waterloo
Township - North Dumfries
Con. VII-XII
Lots 27-35
Township - Waterloo
Con. Beasley's N.S.
Lots 1-3

Latitude - 43° 21'
Longitude - 80° 26'

Total Size - 508 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
96 per cent swamp
3 per cent marsh
1 per cent fen

General Description

The Roseville Swamp, also known as the Cedar Creek wetland, is located less than 10 kilometres west of the city of Cambridge. The dominant site type is palustrine; the portion of the wetland situated along Cedar Creek is riverine. The wetland area comprises eight per cent of its 61 square kilometre catchment basin, giving it value for flow augmentation of local streams. Roseville Swamp is hydrologically connected to other wetlands within 0.5 kilometres, providing habitat linkage for wildlife.

There is minimal interspersion of vegetation forms in the swamp but a high diversity of vegetation communities. The wetland supports many regionally significant plants including mosses, several ferns, sedges and orchids.

The wetland provides important winter cover for the White-tailed Deer and a feeding area for colonial waterbirds. A number of regionally significant animal species are found in the wetland including several butterfly and bird species, the Green Sunfish, Pickerel Frog, Mink Frog, Blanding's Turtle, Snowshoe Hare and Canada Lynx. The area is also regionally important for the spawning and rearing of Brook Trout.

Resources within Roseville Swamp include a good cover of mature timber, Snapping Turtles, Bullfrogs, Muskrats, Raccoons, Beavers, Mink, Coyotes and Red Foxes. Bait fish are abundant during at least part of the year. Recreational activities enjoyed in this wetland include hunting, a moderate degree of nature appreciation and some fishing. The area is frequently visited by school groups.

All of the wetland is privately-owned and easily accessible at most times of the year. There is a moderate level of human disturbance at Roseville Swamp in the form of roads, buildings, a gas pipeline, channelization, drainage, filling and some water pollution.

Special Features

This wetland provides habitat for many provincially significant animal species including the Red-shouldered Hawk, Southern Bog Lemming, Silvery Salamander, Tremblay's Salamander and Blue-spotted Salamander. It also supports the provincially rare Hill's Oak. The Ministry of Natural Resources parks branch recognizes Roseville Swamp as a regionally significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI).

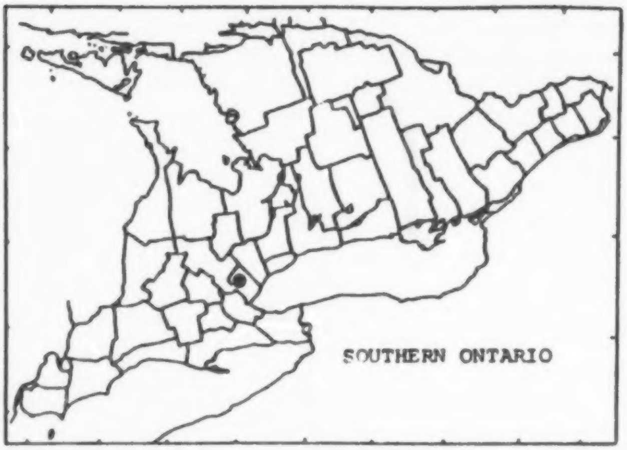
SILVER CREEK SWAMP

Region - Central
District - Cambridge
Conservation Authority
- Credit Valley

Regional Municipality
- Halton
Township - Halton Hills
Con. VI Lots 25-27
VII 27

Latitude - 43° 39'
Longitude - 79° 59'

Total Size - 131 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
97% swamp
3% marsh



General Description

The Silver Creek Swamp is comprised of seventeen individual wetlands ranging in size from 0.5 to 19 ha. It is located a few kilometres west of Georgetown. The dominant site types are palustrine and riverine. The wetland comprises 3% of its 32 sq. km catchment basin, giving it some value for flow augmentation.

There is a high diversity of vegetation communities in the swamp. Much of the wetland is coniferous peatland forest (Balsam Fir/ White Spruce/ cedar) and deciduous scrub (Red Ash/ Yellow Birch/ elm) occuring on wet to saturated muck and alluvial silt. Also found in the swamp areas are Mountain Maple, willows and dogwoods mixed with horsetails, herbs, sedges and grasses. These regions are interspersed with small, scattered marsh areas dominated by cattails, bulrushes, willows, cutgrasses and duckweeds.

Habitat diversity is high at Silver Creek Swamp providing a feeding area for colonial waterbirds, good winter cover for the White-tailed Deer and spawning and rearing habitat for Brook Trout. Commercially valuable bait fish are present, though not abundant. Other resources present include mature timber and furbearers such as Beaver and Red Fox.

Silver Creek Swamp is easily accessible at most times of the year, but is all privately-owned. Human disturbance to this wetland is nearly absent. Minor disturbances include roads and buildings.

Special Features

This wetland supports the provincially significant fish Redside Dace as well as the regionally significant Great Blue Heron, Bitternut Hickory and Squawroot. Silver Creek Valley is also a provincially significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest.

NIAGARA DISTRICT

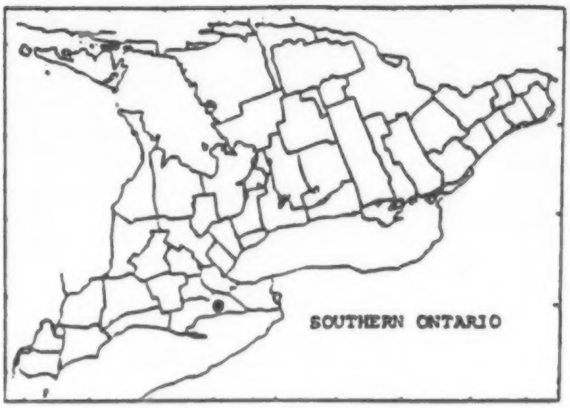
Wetland	Class	Regional Municipality	page
Dry Lake	2	Haldimand-Norfolk	187
Dunnville Marshes	1	Haldimand-Norfolk	189
Erco Wetland	3	Haldimand-Norfolk	191
Fifteen Mile Creek	2	Niagara	192
Grand River Marshes	1	Haldimand-Norfolk	194
Jordan Station Marsh	1	Niagara	196
Moulton East Wetland	3	Haldimand-Norfolk, Niagara	198
Moulton West Wetland	3	Haldimand-Norfolk	200
Mud Lake	3	Niagara	202
Taquanyah Conservation Area	2	Haldimand-Norfolk	204
Wainfleet Bog	1	Niagara	206
Young Tract 1	1	Haldimand-Norfolk	208
Young Tract 2	3	Haldimand-Norfolk	210
Young Tract 3	3	Haldimand-Norfolk	212
Young Tract 4	3	Haldimand-Norfolk	214
Young Tract 5	2	Haldimand-Norfolk	215
Young Tract 6	3	Haldimand-Norfolk	217

DRY LAKE

Region - Central
District - Niagara
Conservation Authority
- Grand River
Regional Municipality
- Haldimand-Norfolk
Township - North Cayuga
Con. I Lots 47-48

Latitude - 42° 56'
Longitude - 79° 56'

Total Size - 35.3 ha
Class - 2
Type of Wetland -
68 per cent swamp
32 per cent marsh



General Description

Dry Lake is an isolated wetland located on organic soil near the Grand River west of Cayuga. Because of its small size the area is of little hydrological significance although it does contribute toward improving local water quality.

Surrounding the wetland are areas of agricultural land, deciduous forest, industrial development, fence rows and creeks providing a moderate diversity of habitat for wildlife. The Dry Lake wetland is hydrologically connected by surface water to other wetlands nearby providing habitat linkage for wildlife. Open water accounts for much of the area of the Dry Lake site.

Vegetation communities are diverse and fairly well interspersed. Willows, ashes, dogwoods, cattails, pondweeds, duckweeds, grasses and sedges are the major vegetation types.

Resources present include timber, furbearers (Muskrats, Raccoons, Mink), Bullfrogs and Snapping Turtles. Recreational activities in the area are mainly hunting and nature appreciation. Some fishing also takes place in the wetland. Few disturbances affect the Dry Lake wetland. The area is under private ownership.

Special Features

The Dry Lake wetland provides habitat for the provincially significant Pied-billed Grebe and Black Tern. The area is also locally significant for waterfowl staging and production.

DUNNVILLE MARSHES

Region - Central
District - Niagara
Conservation Authority
- Grand River

Regional Municipality
- Haldimand-Norfolk
Township - Dunn
Con. II Lots 1-10,12
III 26
Earl Tract 7-13
Township - Moulton
Con. I Lots 4-21

Latitude - 42° 52'
Longitude - 79° 34'

Total Size - 518.3 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
96 per cent marsh
4 per cent swamp

General Description

The Dunnville Marsh is a complex of five individual wetlands ranging in size from 17.2 ha to 258 ha. It is a riverine site with mainly organic soils. The area has some value in erosion control and is responsible for a considerable amount of water quality improvement and flow stabilization.

Habitats surrounding the wetland are very diverse; active and abandoned agricultural land, urban and industrial development and open water are all nearby. The marsh is also connected by surface water to other nearby wetlands. Open water is abundant in the wetland and is distributed irregularly throughout the marsh rather than in a single central area.

The vegetation communities of the marsh are quite diverse; emergents (cattails, arrowheads) are the dominant vegetation type with floating plants (water lilies), trees, and shrubs being common as well. Fish are abundant in the wetland; species spawning in the area include bullhead, catfish and sunfish. Carp, which are also abundant, can uproot and destroy aquatic vegetation, an activity which is detrimental to the spawning success of several fish species. Other resources present are Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles, Muskrats, Raccoons and Mink.

Hunting and fishing are the main recreational activities occurring in the Dunnville marshes. Disturbances to the area include roads, utility corridors, buildings, channelization, drainage, filling and water pollution.

The Dunnville Marsh is entirely privately owned; half of the area is open to the public for limited activity and the remainder is a private club.

Special Features

The Dunnville Marsh provides habitat for the Black-crowned Night-Heron, Red-shouldered Hawk, Black Tern and Marsh Wren. This wetland is also important for waterfowl staging and fish spawning. The marsh is part of a provincially significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI).

ERCO WETLAND

Region - Central
District - Niagara
Conservation Authority
- Grand River

Regional Municipality
- Haldimand-Norfolk

Township - Sherbrooke

Latitude - 42° 51'
Longitude - 79° 34'

Total Size - 22.3 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
85 per cent swamp
15 per cent marsh

General Description

This wetland is a riverine site located on Erco Industry property in Port Maitland near the mouth of the Grand River. The wetland provides moderate erosion control and water quality improvement.

Open water accounts for a large portion of the surface area of the wetland; ponds and channels are interspersed with vegetation and land. Vegetation communities are quite varied; mixed communities of deciduous trees, shrubs, emergents, floating and submerged plants alternate with single stratum communities of Buttonbush, Coontail, goldenrods, bulrushes and grasses. Trees suitable for timber occur over much of the area. Other resources in the Erco wetland are Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles, Muskrats and Raccoons.

Portions of the Erco wetland have been drained and filled, and water temperatures affected by industrial discharge. Some nature appreciation occurs in the area. The wetland is located on private property and public access is restricted.

Special Features

The Erco wetland provides habitat for the provincially significant Marsh Wren.

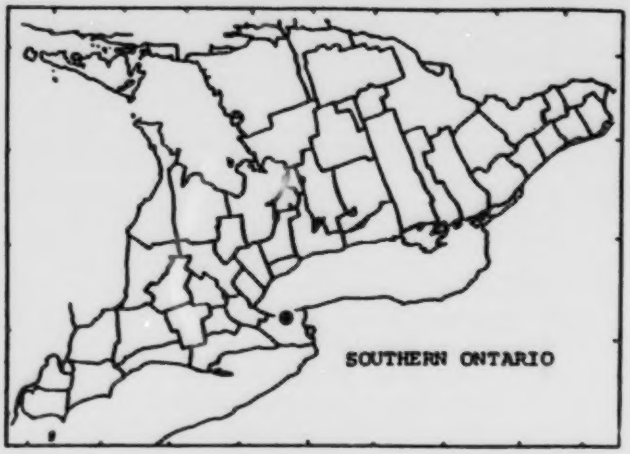
FIFTEEN MILE CREEK

Region - Central
District - Niagara
Conservation Authority
- Niagara Region

Regional Municipality
- Niagara
Township - Louth
Con. I-II
Lots 8-9

Latitude - 43° 10′
Longitude - 79° 19′

Total Size - 23 ha
Class - 2
Type of Wetland -
97 per cent marsh
3 per cent swamp



General Description

This wetland consists of a drowned meander valley of the Fifteen Mile Creek on the Lake Ontario Plain west of St. Catharines. Soils are imperfectly drained fine sandy loams. The wetland is a riverine site and the meander valley is a steep-sided ravine. The area is of little significance for flow stabilization but is moderately effective in water quality improvement.

Surrounding habitats include orchards, deciduous forest, urban development and deep water. The wetland is hydrologically connected by surface water to Lake Ontario. Slightly over one-half of the area is open water. Interspersion in the wetland is low and vegetation communities are not very diverse. Pickerelweed, Water Milfoil, cattails, pondweeds, water lilies, willows, sedges and grasses are the most common plants.

Fish are abundant in the wetland for at least part of the year. Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles, Muskrats and Raccoons are present in the area.

There is moderate recreational use of the wetland including nature appreciation, hunting and fishing. Human disturbance is very low but there is some water pollution. The Fifteen Mile Creek wetland is privately owned.

Special Features

The provincially significant Black Rat Snake has been found in the Fifteen Mile Creek wetland. The area exhibits many representative features of the Lake Ontario Plain. The wetland is recognized as a provincially significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) as well as an alternate "critical unprotected natural area" of the Carolinian zone.

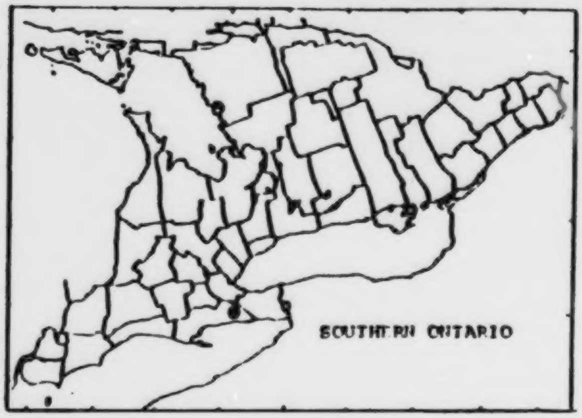
GRAND RIVER MARSHES

Region - Central
District - Niagara
Conservation Authority
- Grand River

Regional Municipality
- Haldimand-Norfolk
Townships - Dunn, N. Cayuga,
S. Cayuga, Canborough,
Moulton
Con. & Lots - see footnote

Latitude - 42° 55′
Longitude - 79° 41′

Total Size - 535.3 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
67 per cent marsh
33 per cent swamp



General Description

This complex of ten individual riverine wetlands, which range in size from 12.9 ha to 143.9 ha, is located along the Grand River near Lake Erie. Soils are mainly organic but some are mineral.

The Grand River system is the main water supply for several urban centres and a large rural area. Due to domestic and industrial waste disposal and runoff from agricultural land the water quality of the river system is important. The Grand River wetland is an effective nutrient trap, helping in water quality improvement throughout the area. Flooding is also a major problem, since considerable development of floodplain areas has occurred. The high surface water detention capability of these marshes contributes to the reduction of flood peaks.

Vegetation communities are diverse with goldenrods, cattails, water lilies and duckweeds predominating. Trees and submergent plants are also common. Interspersion of vegetation forms is low but surrounding habitats are quite diverse. Active and abandoned agricultural land, deciduous forest, urban and industrial development and deep water habitats all border the wetland.

There is some timber in the wetland. Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles, Muskrats, Raccoons and Mink are found in the area. The wetland is used extensively for hunting and boating. Some fishing and nature appreciation activity occur here also. A system of self-guiding trails and observation points is present in the wetland.

Human disruption of the area has occurred to some extent. Roads, utility corridors, buildings, drainage, channelization, pollution and cattle grazing all affect the wetland. The area is easily accessible. It is almost entirely privately owned but is open to the public for limited activities.

Special Features

The marshes along the Grand River provide nesting habitat for the Black Tern and Marsh Wren; both are provincially significant species. The wetland represents an uncommon habitat on the Niagara Peninsula. The Grand River marshes are part of a site identified as a provincially significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI).

Township - Dunn

Con.	Lots
I	11-13
II	6-10
III	1-6
Haldimand	27-29

Township - N. Cayuga

Con.	Lots
I	29
II	29
III	1,5-18
Huff Tract	1-8
Jones Tract	1-2

Township - S. Cayuga

Con.	Lots
IV	5-19
Fradenburg	1-6

Township - Canborough

Con.	Lots
III	1-2
Dochstader	1-3, 9-12

Township - Moulton
-within Dunnville town limits.

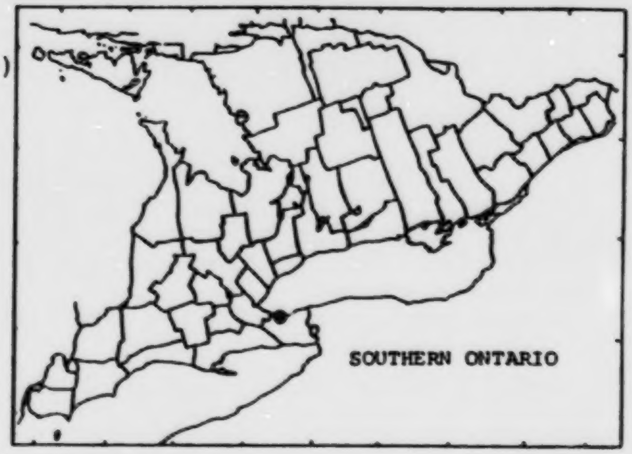
JORDAN STATION MARSH

Region - Central
District - Niagara
Conservation Authority
- Niagara Region

Regional Municipality
- Niagara
Township - Lincoln (Louth)
Con. I Lots 17-20
Con. II Lots 18-19
Con. III-IV Lots 19-20

Latitude - 43° 10′
Longitude - 79° 23′

Total Size - 136.2 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
100 per cent marsh



General Description

This wetland is situated on fine sandy loam soils in the drowned meander valley of Twenty Mile Creek near Jordan Station. The wetland site type is 52 per cent lacustrine and 48 per cent riverine. Because of the proximity of Lake Ontario, the area is of little value for flow stabilization, but is moderately effective in water quality improvement. Combined with the Jordan escarpment valley, the area represents a unit of geomorphological and vegetation patterns, which are rare in the Great Lakes system.

Crop land, deciduous forest, urban areas and open water surround the wetland. Open water accounts for a large portion of the surface area of the wetland. Interspersion and diversity of vegetation communities are low and the dominant vegetation is Water Milfoil, cattails, grasses, willows, water lilies and sedges.

Fish are abundant in the Jordan Station Marsh. Other resources in the wetland include Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles, Muskrats and Raccoons. There is a high level of use for hunting, boating and fishing a moderate level for nature appreciation.

Human disturbance of the area is moderate with some water pollution and a railway line crossing the wetland. Access to the area is easy. The Jordan Station Marsh is publicly owned, and open to the public. The wetland is also a provincially significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) and one of 36 "critical unprotected natural areas in the Carolinian zone". Furthermore, the area is subject to the Niagara Escarpment Plan and associated efforts to protect natural areas along the escarpment.

Special Features

The Jordan Station Marsh provides habitat for the provincially significant Black-crowned Night Heron, Black Tern and Least Bittern as well as the regionally significant Sora, Virginia Rail, American Bittern and Common Gallinule. Twenty Mile Creek is the largest drowned meander valley on the Niagara peninsula.

MOULTON EAST WETLAND

Region - Central
District - Niagara
Conservation Authority
- Niagara Peninsula

Regional Municipality
- Niagara,
Haldimand-Norfolk
Township - Moulton
Con. I Lots 33
II 30-34
Township - Wainfleet
Con. II Lots 3-5

Latitude - 42° 53'
Longitude - 79° 26'

Total Size - 70.2 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
93 per cent swamp
7 per cent marsh

General Description

The Moulton East complex consists of five individual wetlands ranging in size from 1.2 ha to 40.9 ha. It is on a palustrine site with mainly organic soils. The complex is connected by surface water to other wetlands nearby providing habitat linkage for wildlife. While the number of vegetation communities is quite large, the communities are poorly interspersed; most are made up of deciduous trees (poplar, maple), shrubs (dogwood, willow) and grasses or trees, shrubs, emergents (cattails) and floating plants (duckweed). Very little open water is present in the wetland. The land surrounding the wetland is highly varied. Crop and pasture land, abandoned fields, urban development, deep water and deciduous forest provide a diversity of habitats.

Timber and furbearers such as Muskrats, Raccoons, Mink and Red Foxes are resources found in the Moulton East wetland. Some hunting and nature appreciation occur in the Moulton East area.

Roads and drainage have affected the natural quality of the area to some extent. The area has been disturbed further by the clearing of portions of the woodlot for agricultural purposes.

Special Features

The Virginia Opossum, a provincially significant species, is known to inhabit the Moulton East wetland. The area also provides feeding habitat for the Great Blue Heron and is regionally significant as winter cover for the White-tailed Deer.

MOULTON WEST WETLAND

Region - Central
District - Niagara
Conservation Authority
-Niagara Peninsula

Regional Municipality
- Haldimand-Norfolk
Township - Moulton
Con. I Lots 9-14
II 8-15

Latitude - 42° 52'
Longitude - 79° 29'

Total Size - 201.1 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
96.6 per cent swamp
3.4 per cent marsh

General Description

Moulton West is a complex of four individual wetlands ranging in size from 28 to 132 ha. It is a palustrine site with mostly mineral soils. The wetland is surrounded by a variety of habitats including crop and pasture lands, abandoned fields, deciduous and coniferous forests, urban development and deep water areas. Also, it is connected by surface water to other wetlands of the same dominant type providing habitat linkage for wildlife.

There is very little open water in the wetland and interspersion of vegetation communities is poor. However, the communities themselves are highly diverse. Deciduous trees (willow, poplar, maple), shrubs (dogwood), robust and broad-leaved emergents (cattail, bulrush, arrowhead), floating and submerged plants (Coontail, duckweed, pondweed), herbs and grasses are all present in multiple strata communities.

Resources found in the wetland include timber, Bullfrogs, Muskrats, Raccoons, Mink and Red Foxes. Hunting is the only recreational activity that occurs in the wetland. There is a moderate level of human disturbance. Roads, drainage and widespread cutting of trees have affected the natural quality of the area. Moulton West wetland is privately owned and easily accessible.

Special Features

The Virginia Opossum and Flowering Dogwood, two southern species, occur in the Moulton West wetland. The area provides feeding habitat for the Great Blue Heron and is regionally significant as winter cover for the White-tailed Deer.

MUD LAKE

Region - Central
District - Niagara
Conservation Authority
- Niagara Peninsula

Regional Municipality
- Niagara
Township - Humberstone
Con. IV
Lot 27,28

Latitude - 42° 56'
Longitude - 79° 15'

Total Size - 50.7 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
52 per cent swamp
48 per cent marsh

General Description

This single isolated wetland is dominated by organic soils. The wetland is located in moderately diverse surroundings, with crop land, deciduous forest, urban and industrial development and open water habitats in proximity. Other wetlands are located close to Mud Lake, but are not hydrologically connected to it. There is little open water in the wetland.

Vegetation communities are highly diverse in the wetland but they are poorly interspersed. Mixed communities of poplars, willows and dogwoods surround the wetland. The wetland itself is dominated by cattails, duckweeds and pondweeds.

Resources present in the Mud Lake wetland include timber, Bullfrogs, Muskrats, Raccoons and Mink. There is a moderate level of nature appreciation and hunting in the area and there are occasional educational visits by public school groups and the Peninsula Field Naturalists. A system of self-guiding trails is present and literature is available. There are few human disturbances in Mud Lake wetland. Those present include filling of portions of the wetland and pollution. Mud Lake is entirely privately owned, but open to the public for some activities. The area is easily accessible.

Special Features

The Mud Lake wetland provides habitat for the provincially significant Least Bittern, Black Tern and Marsh Wren.

TAQUANYAH CONSERVATION AREA

Region - Central
District - Niagara
Conservation Authority
- Grand River

Regional Municipality
- Haldimand-Norfolk
Township - North Cayuga
Con. I
Lots 40-43

Latitude - 42° 56′
Longitude - 79° 54′

Total Size - 62.5 ha
Class - 2
Type of Wetland -
89 per cent marsh
11 per cent swamp

General Description

The wetland is a lacustrine site located near the Grand River west of Cayuga. It is based on mineral soils. Water quality improvement through the area is quite high and erosion control is moderate.

Surrounding habitats are quite diverse; active and abandoned agricultural land, deciduous forest, industrial development, fence rows and creeks are all located near the wetland. Other wetlands are located nearby, but are not hydrologically connected. Open water is abundant in the wetland and is distributed among peninsulas and islands of vegetation creating a large area of shoreline.

Vegetation communities in the marsh are quite diverse. Coontails, goldenrods, cattails, grasses and deciduous trees are all abundant, as are floating plants and submergents. Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles and furbearers (Muskrats, Raccoons, Mink, Red Foxes) are all present. The wetland is also a spawning area for fish.

The area is used extensively for nature appreciation and moderately for fishing and hunting. The resource interpretation centre of the Taquanyah Conservation Area provides excellent facilities for educational programs.

There is moderate disturbance of the natural quality of the wetland in certain areas. Buildings and boardwalks are found in the area and water levels are affected by a nearby dam. The wetland is almost entirely publicly owned.

Special Features

Taquanyah Conservation Area provides habitat for the provincially significant Black Tern and Marsh Wren. The regionally significant Snowy Egret and Virginia Mallow have also been found here. The Green-backed Heron nests at the Taquanyah Conservation Area.

WAINFLEET BOG

Region - Central
District - Niagara
Conservation Authority
- Niagara Peninsula

Regional Municipality
- Niagara

Township - Wainfleet

Con.	Lots
II	4-12
III	1-11
IV	1-8

Township - Humberstone

Con.	Lots
III	31-33
IV	31-33

Latitude - 42° 55'
Longitude - 79° 18'

Total Size - 1006 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -

40	per cent bog
31.5	per cent swamp
27	per cent fen
1.5	per cent marsh

General Description

The Wainfleet Bog is composed primarily of bog, swamp and fen and is located a few kilometres northwest of Port Colborne. The dominant site type is palustrine with a permanent outflow. Its large surface area gives the wetland value for detention of floodwaters and for flow augmentation during dry weather. Less than five per cent of Wainfleet Bog is covered by open water.

There is medium interspersion of vegetation forms in the wetland. Vegetation consists mainly of cattails, deciduous trees, shrubs, mosses, herbs and submergents such as Coontail.

The diversity of habitats surrounding Wainfleet Bog is important for wildlife using the wetland. Colonial waterbirds feed on the site and good winter cover for the White-tailed Deer is present. Resources found in the Wainfleet Bog include mature timber in the swamp regions, Bullfrogs and furbearers such as Muskrats, Raccoons and Mink.

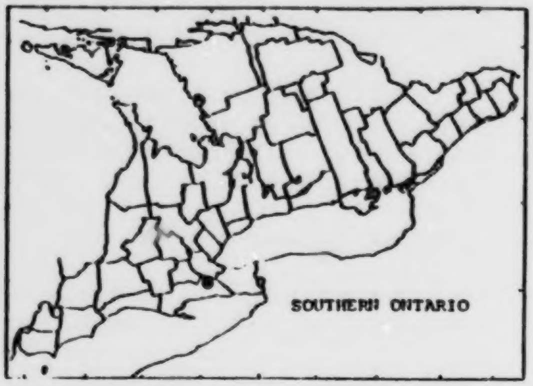
Wainfleet Bog is all privately owned. The area is frequented by naturalists for nature appreciation and study. Some hunting takes place.

This wetland is in an urban area and is subject to several disturbances including roads, buildings, a utility corridor, channelization, drainage, market gardening, burning and a large central peat extraction operation.

Special Features

Wainfleet Bog provides breeding and feeding habitat for the provincially significant Marsh Wren and Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake. It also supports several regionally rare plant species such as Labrador Tea, Pitcher Plant, Leatherleaf and Grey Birch. The wetland is significant in the Niagara area for its boreal flora. On the basis of these values, the site is considered a provincially significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI).

YOUNG TRACT 1



Region - Central
District - Niagara
Conservation Authority
- Grand River

Regional Municipality
- Haldimand-Norfolk
Township - Seneca
Con. River Range Lots 12-16
Fish Tract 4-6
Cooks 1-4
I Young Tract 20-25

Latitude - 43° 00′
Longitude - 79° 51′

Total Size - 384.7 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
98 per cent swamp
2 per cent marsh

General Description

This swamp complex is located northwest of the town of Cayuga. The dominant site type is palustrine with mineral soils. The wetland takes up approximately half of its 7.75 square kilometre catchment basin and is of value for flow augmentation during dry periods. It is hydrologically connected by surface water to the nearby Young Tract 2 wetland providing habitat linkage for wildlife.

There is a high interspersion of vegetation forms in the wetland. Swamp vegetation is dominated by stands of shrubs interspersed with stands of maple/oak/willow mixed with Coontail, duckweeds, grasses, mosses and pondweeds. Cattails, bulrushes and duckweeds predominate in marsh areas.

The wetland provides a feeding area for the Great Blue Heron and regionally important winter cover for the White-tailed Deer. Resources found here include a stand of mature timber, Bullfrogs and furbearers such as Muskrats, Raccoons, Mink and Red Foxes.

The wetland is all privately owned and access is easy at most times of the year. Hunting is the most common recreational activity here. There are several localized disturbances to the wetland including roads, buildings, water pollution, wood-cutting operations and small dump sites. Five of the Young Tract wetlands (1-3,5-6) are within the Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) known as the North Cayuga Slough Forest.

Special Features

This wetland provides breeding and feeding habitat for the provincially significant Prothonotary Warbler and Acadian Flycatcher. The provincially rare Wild Yam is also found here.

YOUNG TRACT 2

Region - Central
District - Niagara
Conservation Authority
- Grand River

Regional Municipality
- Haldimand-Norfolk
Township - Seneca
Con. River Range
Lots 1-11
Con. S. of Stoney Creek Road
Lots 25-28

Latitude - 42° 59'
Longitude - 79° 51'

Total Size - 34.5 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
94.2 per cent swamp
5.8 per cent marsh

General Description

This small palustrine complex is located north of Cayuga. The wetland is hydrologically connected to the nearby Young Tract 1 and Young Tract 3 wetlands providing habitat linkage for wildlife. Because of its small surface area and the numerous detention areas upstream and downstream the wetland is of little value for flow stabilization of local creeks.

Marsh vegetation consists of areas of cattails and bulrushes interspersed with Coontail, herbs, grasses, sedges, duckweeds and pondweeds. Stands of dogwood and willow shrubs mixed with Wild Calla Lily, willow trees, grasses, sedges and duckweeds predominate in the swamps. Open water comprises less than five per cent of the wetland's total area.

The wetland provides a feeding area for the Great Blue Heron and is of regional importance as winter cover for the White-tailed Deer. A good stand of mature timber, Bullfrogs and furbearers such as Muskrats, Raccoons, Mink and Red Foxes are resources found in this wetland.

Hunting is the most common recreational activity occurring in this wetland. The area is also popular for nature appreciation and study. There are a few localized disturbances to the Young Tract 2 wetland including roads, drainage, water pollution and a logging operation.

Special Features

This wetland is part of the provincially significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest known as the North Cayuga Slough Forest. The area provides habitat for the provincially significant Prothonotary Warbler and Acadian Flycatcher and supports the provincially rare Wild Yam.

YOUNG TRACT 3

Region - Central
District - Niagara
Conservation Authority
- Grand River

Regional Municipality
- Haldimand-Norfolk
Township - North Cayuga
Con. I
Lots 25-28

Latitude - 42° 58′
Longitude - 79° 50′

Total Size - 7.9 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
92 per cent swamp
8 per cent marsh

General Description

This small wetland complex is composed of eight individual wetlands ranging in size from 0.1 to 5.2 ha, northwest of the town of Cayuga. The dominant site type is palustrine. It is hydrologically connected to the nearby Young Tract 2 wetland providing habitat linkage for wildlife.

There is very little interspersion of vegetation forms in this swamp and less than five per cent of its area is covered by open water. Willow shrubs and duckweeds interspersed with maple/oak/willow stands with herbs and grasses predominate in swamp areas. Vegetation in marsh areas consists primarily of Coontail, duckweeds, pondweeds, dogwoods, willow shrubs and arrowheads.

The Great Blue Heron feeds in the wetland and the area provides locally important winter cover for the White-tailed Deer. Bullfrogs, Muskrats, Raccoons, Mink, Red Foxes and a good stand of mature timber are some of the resources found in this wetland.

Young Tract 3 is privately owned. Some hunting and nature appreciation occur here. There are a few localized disturbances to this wetland complex including buildings, a utility corridor and drainage. This wetland is part of the provincially significant Area of Natural and Scientific

Interest known as the North Cayuga Slough Forest.

Special Features

This wetland provides breeding or feeding habitat for the provincially significant Prothonotary Warbler and Acadian Flycatcher.

YOUNG TRACT 4

Region - Central
District - Niagara
Conservation Authority
- Grand River

Regional Municipality
- Haldimand-Norfolk
Township - North Cayuga
Con. I, Lots 25-29

Latitude - 42° 58'
Longitude - 79° 50'

Total Size - 16.4 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
94 per cent swamp
6 per cent marsh

General Description

Young Tract 4 is a complex of six individual wetlands located on the northwest side of the town of Cayuga near the Grand River. It is on a palustrine site with mineral soils and has little open water. What open water there is occurs as small ponds distributed throughout the complex. The vegetation communities are varied; multiple strata communities include deciduous trees (maple, oak, willow), shrubs (dogwood, hawthorn), grasses, sedges and herbs. Aquatic species present include Water Milfoil, cattails, duckweeds, bulrushes and arrowheads. There is a moderate amount of habitat diversity surrounding the wetland including urban development in Cayuga, active and abandoned agricultural land and deciduous forest.

Many of the trees present are mature. Other resources in the area include Bullfrogs, Muskrats, Raccoons and Mink. This privately owned wetland receives moderate use for recreational purposes such as hunting and nature appreciation.

Special Features

Young Tract 4 is home to the provincially significant Prothonotary Warbler and Acadian Flycatcher. The wetland is a feeding area for the Great Blue Heron and is locally significant as winter cover for the White-tailed Deer.

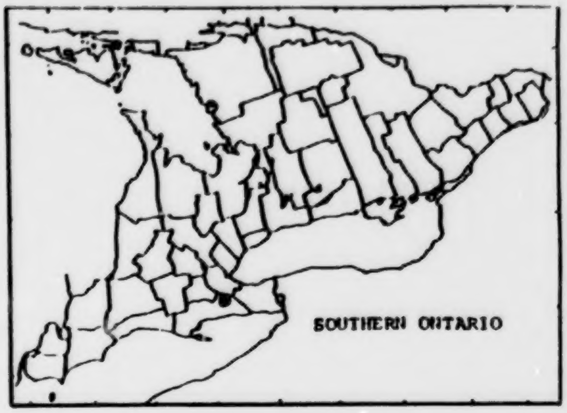
YOUNG TRACT 5

Region - Central
District - Niagara
Conservation Authority
- Grand River

Regional Municipality
- Haldimand-Norfolk
Townships - Seneca,
North Cayuga
Con. I
Lots 19-24

Latitude - 42° 58'
Longitude - 79° 49'

Total Size - 116.4 ha
Class - 2
Type of Wetland -
84.5 per cent swamp
15.5 per cent marsh



General Description

Young Tract 5 is a complex of 35 individual wetlands. The site is palustrine and soils are mostly mineral. The wetland is connected by surface water to other wetlands within 0.5 km providing habitat linkage for wildlife. A small proportion of the wetland is covered by open water in a series of small ponds.

The wetland is surrounded by a diversity of habitats including agricultural land, deciduous forest and industrial developments. Vegetation is moderately well interspersed; deciduous trees, dogwoods and willows are the dominant vegetation and cattails, sedges and grasses are subdominant. Timber is abundant. Bullfrogs and furbearers (Muskrats, Raccoons and Mink) are also present.

Hunting is the major recreational activity in the wetland and nature appreciation is a regular activity. There are few human disturbances, but roads cross the area and portions of the wetland have been drained. There are also small dump sites scattered throughout. Young Tract 5 is privately owned. This wetland is part of the provincially significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) known as the North Cayuga Slough Forest.

Special Features

The Acadian Flycatcher and Prothonotary Warbler, both provincially significant species, are found in the Young Tract 5 wetland. Also present is the provincially rare plant species, the Wild Yam. The wetland is a feeding area for the Great Blue Heron and is regionally significant as winter cover for the White-tailed Deer.

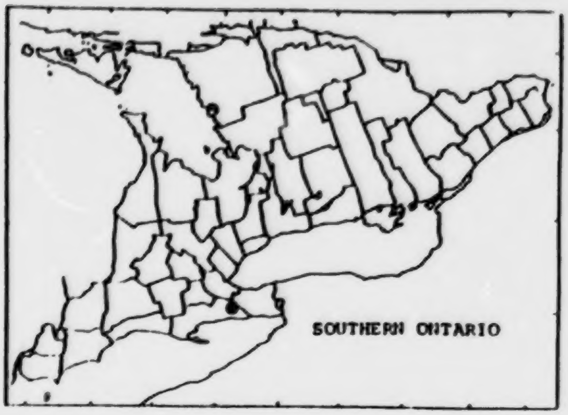
YOUNG TRACT 6

Region - Central
District - Niagara
Conservation Authority
- Grand River

Regional Municipality
- Haldimand-Norfolk
Township - North Cayuga
Con. I
Lots 23,24

Latitude - 42° 58′
Longitude - 79° 49′

Total Size - 13.2 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
81 per cent swamp
19 per cent marsh



General Description

Three individual wetlands make up this complex. It is a palustrine site with mineral soils and is composed primarily of swamp. Little open water is found in the wetland. Young Tract 6 is hydrologically connected to other wetlands of the same dominant type providing habitat linkage for wildlife. It is surrounded by moderately diverse habitats, which include crop and pasture lands, abandoned fields, deciduous forest and industrial sites.

Vegetation communities are diverse. Cattails and duckweeds are the dominant aquatic species; in other areas of the wetland dogwood and willow shrubs are predominant. Resources include timber, Bullfrogs and furbearers such as Muskrats, Raccoons, Mink and Red Foxes.

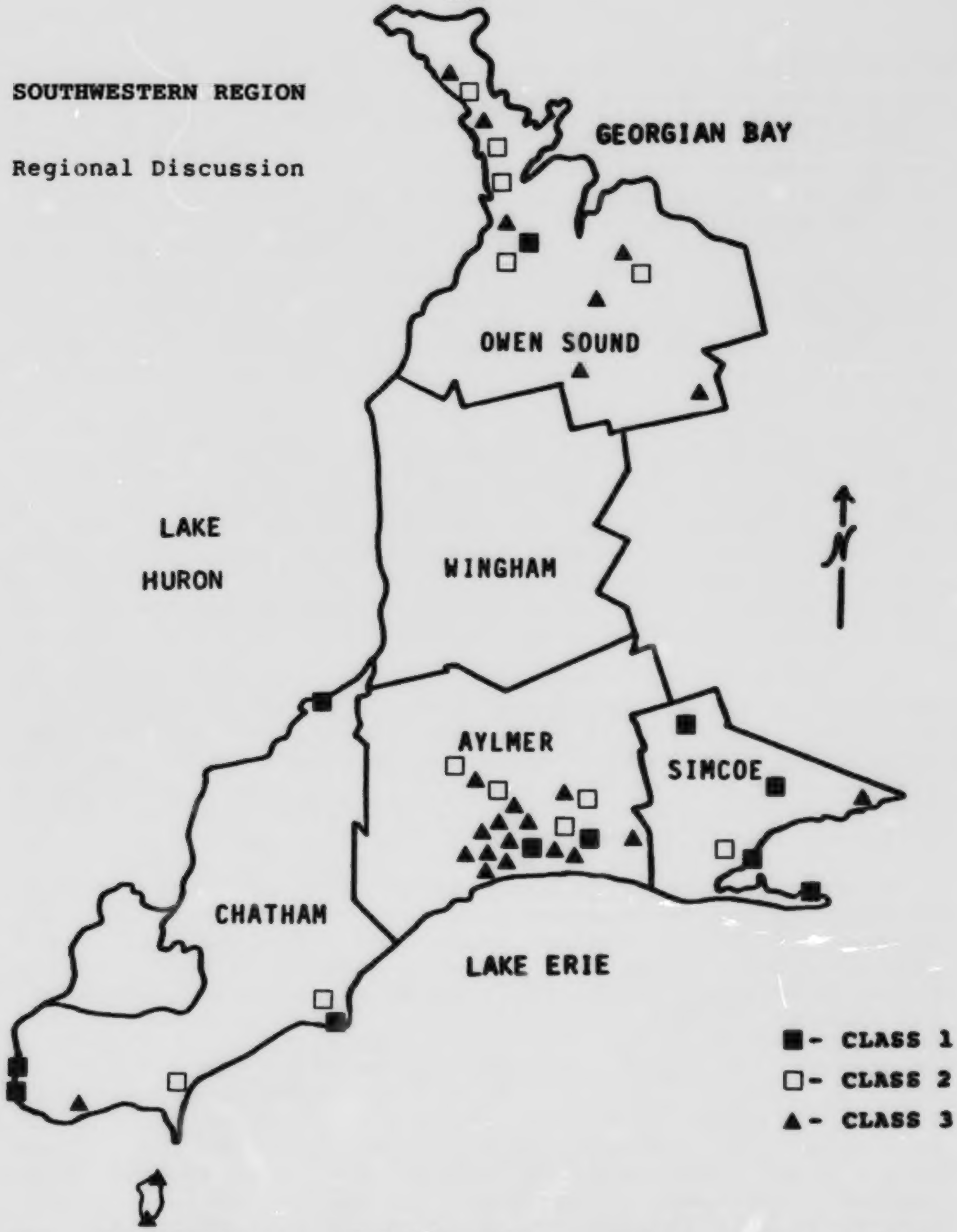
Hunting and nature appreciation are the most common recreational uses of the wetland. The area is privately owned. This wetland is part of the provincially significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) known as the North Cayuga Slough Forest. Human disturbance is severe in some parts of the wetland; landfilling and water pollution have affected the area.

Special Features

Young Tract 6 is provincially significant as habitat for the Prothonotary Warbler and Acadian Flycatcher. It is also a feeding area for the Great Blue Heron. Locally it is a significant waterfowl staging area and provides winter cover for the White-tailed Deer.

SOUTHWESTERN REGION

Regional Discussion



The Southwestern administrative region spans great physiographic and biological variation, from the St. Clair clay plains and Carolinian biota of Essex County in the south, to the thinly covered dolostone bedrock and boreal life-forms of the Bruce Peninsula.

Extreme southwestern Ontario has lost more of its wetlands than any other portion of Ontario. In spite of this, many wetland species found nowhere else in Ontario or Canada may be found in the remaining habitat. Lying on the northern limit of the Carolinian zone, the remaining natural areas possess distinctly southern characteristics. The recent Carolinian Canada initiative (see Glossary) resulted in the identification of 36 "critical unprotected natural areas" including Big Creek Marsh, Cedar Creek and Port Franks Wetland, which are described in this Interim Report. Other wetlands in Southwestern Region evaluated later (1985-87) are also among the 36 sites. The objective of this joint effort by government and private conservation organizations is to secure protection of these remaining natural areas.

The Bruce Peninsula possesses an abundance and great diversity of wetlands and associated wild flora and fauna. The eight Bruce County wetlands described in this report are primarily located along the Lake Huron shoreline. Others not documented in this interim report fall within the Niagara Escarpment Planning Area and thus in many cases are given a measure of protection in the Niagara Escarpment Plan and in proposals for its implementation.

In addition to promoting wetland conservation, the Ministry of Natural Resources seeks to obtain protection for what are termed "Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest" or ANSI (see Glossary). Eleven Southwestern Region wetlands discussed in this report are also provincially significant ANSI; six others are regionally significant ANSI. These sites are identified in the site accounts.

Three of Ontario's best known wetlands--Long Point, Rondeau Bay and Point Pelee--are on the north shore of Lake Erie. Long Point, Point Pelee and the Lake St. Clair wetlands (the latter two are not covered in this interim report) have all been declared wetlands of international importance. Rondeau Provincial Park is being considered for the same designation. These wetlands attract large numbers of anglers, hunters, naturalists and other recreationists. Wetlands along the Detroit River and extreme western Lake Erie and adjacent open water collectively support spring and fall staging by thousands of migrating waterfowl. Big Creek Marsh, Cedar Creek, and Canard River Marsh are some of these important wetlands. Long Point and eastern Lake St. Clair also serve this function for large numbers of waterfowl.

OWEN SOUND DISTRICT

Wetland	Class	County	page
Baie du Dore Wetland	2	Bruce	223
Camp Creek Wetland #10	3	Grey	225
Greenough Harbour Wetland	3	Bruce	226
Howdenvale Bay Fen	2	Bruce	228
Keldon Swamp	3	Grey	230
Lily Oak Swamp	2	Grey	232
Negro Lakes Wetland	3	Grey	234
Oliphant Wetland	2	Bruce	235
Robson Lakes Wetland Complex	3	Grey	237
Skipness Wetland Complex	3	Bruce	239
Stokes Bay Wetland	2	Bruce	240
Sucker Creek Wetland	3	Bruce	242
Tara Wetland	1	Bruce, Grey	244

BAIE DU DORE WETLAND

Region - Southwestern
District - Owen Sound
Conservation Authority
- Saugeen Valley

County - Bruce
Township - Bruce
Con. VI-VIII
Lots 28-36

Latitude - 44° 20'
Longitude - 81° 33'

Total Size - 95 ha
Class - 2
Type of Wetland -
50 per cent marsh
46 per cent fen
4 per cent swamp

General Description

The Baie du Dore wetland is located on the shore of Lake Huron just north of Ontario Hydro's Bruce Nuclear Power Development. Most of the wetland is exposed to Lake Huron and the dominant site type is lacustrine.

There is a high diversity of habitats in the wetland. Predominant vegetation forms within marsh areas include Yellow Water Lily, Tamarack, rushes, cattails and sedges while the major fen vegetation forms are Eastern White Cedar, Shrubby Cinquefoil, sedges, vetches and mosses. Regionally significant plant species found within the wetland include the Yellow Lady's Slipper, Shrubby St. John's-wort, Brook Lobelia and Ninebark.

Baie du Dore is regionally significant for waterfowl staging for a number of species and is an important stopover area for migratory passerine birds and shorebirds. It also provides spawning habitat for Chinook Salmon, bass and carp.

The shoreline property in this wetland is privately owned. The wetland is occasionally visited by naturalists and has been the subject of research papers. The wetland also supports a commercial bait fish operation. There is a moderate level of human disturbance at the Baie du Dore, mostly due to an Ontario Hydro landfill site located to the southwest of the Baie du Dore and to cottage development in the central portion of the wetland.

Special Features

The Baie du Dore wetland provides habitat for a number of provincially significant animal species including the Spotted Turtle, Horned Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Great Egret, Canvasback, Redhead, Caspian Tern and Common Tern. Provincially significant plant species found in the wetland include Spike Rush (*Eleocharis rostellata*) and Ridged Yellow Flax.

CAMP CREEK WETLAND #10

Region - Southwestern
District - Owen Sound
Conservation Authority
- Saugeen Valley

County - Grey
Township - Bentinck
Con. III Lots 50-53
Township - Normanby
Con. XVIII Lots 51-54

Latitude - 44° 08′
Longitude - 80° 54′

Total Size - 55 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
60 per cent swamp
40 per cent bog

General Description

This single, contiguous wetland is located within the Dundalk Till Plain about 10 km southwest of the town of Durham. Muck soils with underlying mottled clay predominate. The wetland is of some hydrological value as it serves as a groundwater recharge and a water storage area.

Interspersion of vegetation forms is low in the wetland. The swamp communities' dominant species are Eastern White Cedar, birches and ashes; Tamarack and sphagnum mosses predominate in bog areas. Potentially valuable resources within the wetland include mature timber and furbearers such as Raccoons and Mink.

The wetland is entirely privately owned. There are several disturbances to the wetland including roads, old snowmobile trails, tree removal and extensive grazing.

Special Features

Camp Creek wetland supports the regionally significant plants, Narrow-leaved Spleenwort, Arethusa and Moccasin-flower. It also contains the unique Saugeen kame terraces.

GREENOUGH HARBOUR WETLAND

Region - Southwestern
District - Owen Sound
County - Bruce
Township - Lindsay
Con. VII-IX
Lots 3-5

Latitude - 44° 59′
Longitude - 81° 25′

Total Size - 27.4 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
45 per cent swamp
28 per cent marsh
27 per cent fen

General Description

The Greenough Harbour wetland is located on the western shore of the Bruce Peninsula in the southwestern portion of Lindsay Township. The wetland is composed of a narrow fen with a cedar swamp border extending across the top of Greenough Harbour and marsh communities along the shores. The fen/swamp portion is palustrine, with intermittent inflow through the hardwood/cedar swamps at its northern edge. The marsh area is lacustrine on an enclosed bay.

In addition to provincially significant plants, the regionally significant Calypso Orchid, Long Beech Fern, Heart Leaf Twayblade and Green Adders-mouth are found within the wetland. The area provides good winter cover for Coyotes, Red Foxes, Ruffed Grouse, White-tailed Deer and the occasional Bobcat.

About 30 per cent of the wetland is privately owned. The western portion of the wetland, which is publicly owned, is accessible either by boat from Lake Huron or by foot along a trail.

There is high intensity hunting and fishing within the wetland, and furbearers including Muskrats, Raccoons and Mink are found here. There is a low level of human disturbance, mostly in the form of an infrequently used road.

Special Features

The Greenough Harbour wetland supports the provincially significant River Otter and Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake. It is also important as a stopover area for shorebirds and is of regional significance for the spawning and rearing of bass, perch, pike and carp.

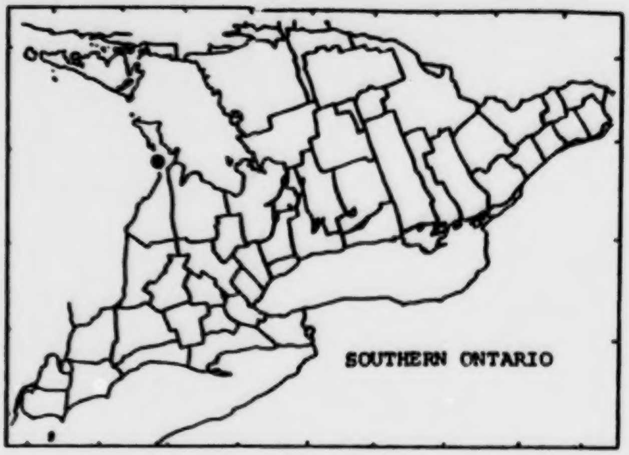
HOWDENVALE BAY FEN

Region - Southwestern
District - Owen Sound
Conservation Authority
- Sauble Valley

County - Bruce
Township - Albemarle
Con. V-VI
Lots 13-16

Latitude - 44^{o} 49′
Longitude - 81^{o} 18′

Total Size - 36.5 ha
Class - 2
Type of Wetland -
63 per cent fen
19 per cent marsh
18 per cent swamp



General Description

This wetland is located along the shore of Lake Huron at the village of Howdenvale. It is hydrologically connected to Georgian Bay by the Sucker Creek wetland to the north.

The wetland is composed primarily of a fen with intermittent zones of swamp and marsh. The dominant plant species are Sweet Gale, Eastern White Cedar and sedges interspersed with Shrubby Cinquefoil and rushes in the marsh areas and Tamarack, dogwoods and vetches in the swamps. There is little open water within the wetland, except for a small stream and some channels and drainage ditches.

In addition to the provincially significant plant and animal species found here, the wetland's regionally significant species include the Barred Owl, Marsh Horsetail and Bog Candle Orchid. It is also of importance as a fish spawning and rearing area and is an important stopover area for migratory passerines and shorebirds.

The 20 hectare Petrel Point Nature Preserve in the southwestern portion of the wetland is used frequently by naturalists and the general public for nature appreciation and study. There is a high intensity of fishing along the Lake Huron shoreline, as well as moderate boating activity.

Approximately 80 per cent of the wetland is privately owned. There is moderate human disturbance, primarily related to permanent and seasonal residences in or adjacent to the fens bordering Howdenvale Bay.

Special Features

The Howdenvale Bay fen provides habitat for the provincially significant Spotted Turtle, Low Nut Rush, Dwarf Lake Iris and Tuberous Indian Plantain. The wetland has been recognized as a provincially significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI).

KELDON SWAMP

Region - Southwestern
District - Owen Sound
Conservation Authority
- Saugeen Valley,
Grand River

County - Grey
Township - Proton
Con. I - VI
Lots 28 - 40

Latitude - 44° 03′
Longitude - 80° 26′

Total Size - 873 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
87 per cent swamp
13 per cent marsh

General Description

The Keldon Swamp complex is located approximately 10 km south of the town of Dundalk within the Dundalk Till Plain. It is comprised of four individual wetland areas and forms the headwater for both the South Saugeen and Grand Rivers. Muck soil predominates and dark brown clay underlies areas in which the soil is shallow.

Since the wetland is almost entirely palustrine the complex's main hydrological function is in flow stabilization. The swamp area acts as a ground water recharge as the organic soils hold water which percolates down through the esker. Drainage ditches contain most of the open water in the wetland and they comprise only a very small percentage of the total area. Keldon Swamp is connected hydrologically to Proton and Gildale swamps to the west. On the northern half of the esker stands of Sugar Maple and Beech predominate; to the south the esker ridge runs through a Balsam Fir/White Cedar/White Birch stand.

The wetland provides a feeding area for colonial waterbirds and is of local significance for waterfowl production. Winter cover is good for grouse and hare and is of local significance for deer. The wetland provides habitat for Raccoons and Beavers and has an abundant timber resource. Access to the wetland complex is generally easy although only 15 per cent of the area is publicly owned. Intensity of hunting is high within the public areas.

Disturbances within the wetland include gravel roads, unrestricted cattle access and several drainage ditches.

Special Features

The Keldon Swamp complex contains a unique esker formation between two of its wetland areas. It also supports the regionally significant Showy Lady's-Slipper. The wetland is a regionally significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI).

LILY OAK SWAMP

Region - Southwestern
District - Owen Sound
Conservation Authority
- North Grey Region

County - Grey
Township - Holland

Con.	Lots
X	13-16
XI	12-14
XII	10-12

Latitude - 44° 25'
Longitude - 80° 43'

Total Size - 151 ha
Class - 2
Type of Wetland -
91 per cent swamp
9 per cent marsh

General Description

This wetland is located east of the Robson Lakes wetland complex. Its northeastern and southwestern sections form the headwaters of Hamilton Creek which flows into the North Saugeen River. The dominant site type is riverine, with some ponds in the headwater area. Rising springs form the palustrine areas on a horseshoe moraine spillway. Soils are primarily organic.

Dominant plant species in the swamp communities include Eastern White Cedar, Trembling Aspen, Red Maple, Tamarack and ashes while those in the marsh areas include Muskgrass, Yellow Water Lily, dogwoods, bur reeds and sedges.

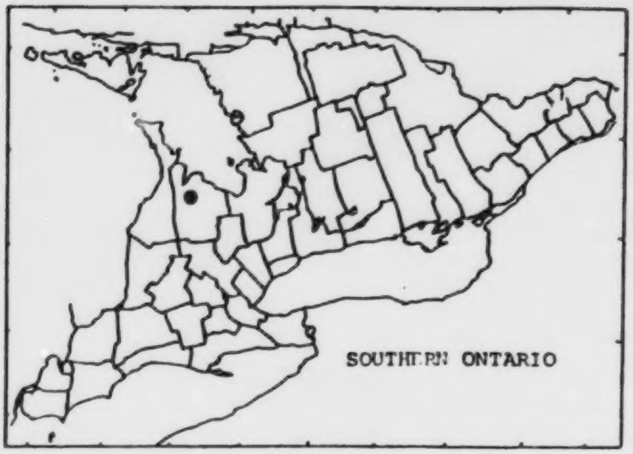
The wetland provides habitat for Muskrats, Beavers and Mink. Brook Trout are present in the northeastern headwaters. The area is of local significance for waterfowl production.

About 77 per cent of the Lily Oak swamp is privately owned. The Lily Oak forest is also a provincially significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI). The wetland is presently subject to only minor disturbances from roads and some filling.

Special Features

The Lily Oak Swamp provides a locally significant winter yard for deer and supports the regionally significant Fly Honeysuckle, Marsh Horsetail and Pickerel Frog.

NEGRO LAKES WETLAND



Region - Southwestern
District - Owen Sound
Conservation Authority
-Saugeen Valley

County - Grey
Township - Holland
Con. II
Lots 59-61

Latitude - 44° 20′
Longitude - 80° 50′

Total Size - 12 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
- 50 per cent fen
- 20 per cent swamp
- 20 per cent marsh
- 10 per cent bog

General Description

This small, single wetland is located about seven kilometres southwest of Holland Centre on the Negro Lakes. Open water covers much of the wetland.

The fen, the major wetland type in the complex, is covered by Labrador Tea, grasses, mixed herbs and dead conifers. There is a high diversity of habitat in this wetland and it supports furbearers such as Raccoons and Beavers as well as commercially valuable fish.

The Negro Lakes wetland is all privately owned. There is a moderate level of human disturbance affecting this wetland due to roads, cottages and other buildings and logging in the surrounding area.

Special Features

The Negro Lakes wetland supports the provincially significant Red-shouldered Hawk. It also provides habitat for the regionally significant Arethusa and Showy Orchis. The Ministry of Natural Resources also recognizes the wetland as a regionally significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI).

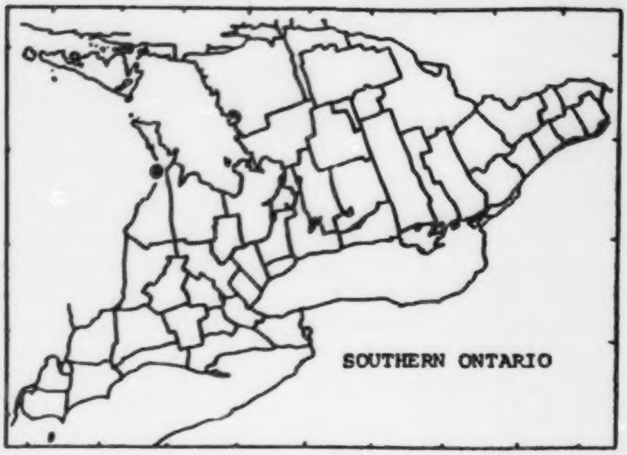
OLIPHANT WETLAND

Region - Southwestern
District - Owen Sound
Conservation Authority
- Sauble Valley

County - Bruce
Township - Amabel

Latitude - 44° 43′
Longitude - 81° 17′

Total Size - 173 ha
Class - 2
Type of Wetland -
72 per cent marsh
19 per cent fen
9 per cent swamp



General Description

The Oliphant wetland is located on the western shore of the Bruce Peninsula, north of Chief's Point Indian Reserve. Although more commonly known as the Oliphant Fen, the wetland is primarily a marsh.

The wetland is predominantly lacustrine and exposed to Lake Huron. The wetland is given some protection from Lake Huron by the Fishing Islands, a chain of islands situated just offshore. The sheltered waters have made it a productive spawning and nursery habitat for a variety of fish species.

Marsh areas of the wetland are dominated by sedges and cattails while Shrubby Cinquefoil, Eastern White Cedar and sedges dominate in the fens.

Much of the wetland is accessible for public use and fishing and boating are common activities. The area also supports a number of bait fish operations and is a nursery for the commercially important whitefish and Herring. The wetland is frequented by naturalists and school children from the nearby Bruce County Outdoor Education Centre.

There has been intense human disturbance in some areas of the Oliphant wetland, particularly within the village of Oliphant and along the shore, as a result of extensive cottage development. Much of the area to the east of the shore road has been drained, filled or mowed. In addition, a number of channels have been dug and paths mowed for easier access to the water.

Special Features

The Oliphant Wetland is of high significance as a staging area for migratory shorebirds and is regionally important for waterfowl staging and waterfowl production. A number of provincially significant animals utilize the wetland as a breeding and feeding area including the River Otter, Pied-billed Grebe, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Northern Pintail, Northern Harrier, Caspian Tern, Common Tern and Black Tern. The regionally significant Osprey and Red-breasted Nuthatch are also found here. Provincially rare plant species present are the Low Nut Rush and Indian Plantain.

ROBSON LAKES WETLAND COMPLEX

Region - Southwestern
District - Owen Sound
Conservation Authority
- North Grey Region

County - Grey
Township - Holland
Con. VIII-XI
Lots 9-12

Latitude - 44° 26'
Longitude - 80° 45'

Total Size - 200 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
83 per cent swamp
9 per cent marsh
8 per cent bog

General Description

The Robson Lakes wetland complex is located approximately seven kilometres south of Walter's Falls. The complex is comprised of six individual wetlands ranging in size from 1.3 to 126.8 ha and is primarily swamp. Much of the area forms a headwater for the Bighead River. Thus the site type is primarily palustrine with lacustrine wetland surrounding Mud Lake. The area has numerous steep, rocky till slopes and frequent kettle depressions with no above-surface drainage. Soils are chiefly organic.

Interspersion of vegetation forms is low. Dominant plants within swamp areas are Eastern White Cedar, Tamarack, maples, dogwoods, spruces and poplars. Typical bog communities include Tamarack, Yellow Water Lily, cattails and sphagnum mosses. Several interesting sedge and orchid species grow in the bog and along the margins of the creek, which flows through the western bog.

The wetland complex is of local significance for waterfowl production. It also supports Raccoons, Beavers, Mink, Muskrats, Bullfrogs and Snapping Turtles. There is a high intensity of use for hunting within the wetland as well as moderate levels of use for nature appreciation and canoeing.

Approximately 64 per cent of the wetland area is privately owned. The importance of the area has been recognized through listing as a provincially significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI). The level of human disturbance is low and is primarily due to a large gravel pit operation and the harvesting of timber.

Special Features

The Robson Lakes wetland complex supports the provincially rare White Fringed Orchid. Two kettle ponds are unique geological features within the wetland.

SKIPNESS WETLAND COMPLEX

Region - Southwestern
District - Owen Sound
Conservation Authority
- Sauble Valley

County - Bruce
Township - Amabel
Con. II-V, Lots 9-15

Latitude - 44° 34'
Longitude - 81° 11'

Total Size - 83.2 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
84.5 per cent swamp
15.5 per cent marsh

General Description

The Skipness Wetland complex, just south of Gould Lake, is composed of three individual wetland areas. The largest area, along the eastern border of the drumlin, is riverine because of the permanent inflow from Manchester Lake and outflow to the Sauble River. The other two areas are palustrine, with intermittent outflows to Chesley Lake. The palustrine wetlands are swamp; the riverine area is a mixture of swamp and marsh with medium interspersion of vegetation forms. The riverine wetland area has some value for erosion control.

The wetland provides good winter cover for the Red Foxes, Ruffed Grouse and hare and is of local significance for waterfowl production. The main resources of the wetland complex are firewood and furbearers such as Muskrats, Raccoons and Beavers.

The wetland is all privately owned and human disturbance to the area is minimal. The area has been identified as a provincially significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI).

Special Features

Two provincially significant bird species, the Yellow Rail and King Rail, have been found in the Skipness wetland complex. The wetland is the only remaining, typical inter-drumlin wetland complex in the Arran Drumlin Field.

STOKES BAY WETLAND

Region - Southwestern
District - Owen Sound

County - Bruce
Townships - Lindsay,
Con. I West & East
III, VI-VIII
Lots 1-2
Township - Eastnor
Con. I West & East
IV-VI
Lots 35-41

Latitude - 44° 59'
Longitude - 81° 23'

Total Size - 236.8 ha
Class - 2
Type of Wetland -
65 per cent marsh
35 per cent swamp

General Description

This wetland complex is composed of several wetlands on Stokes Bay and Gauley Bay, Lake Huron, and several others inland, northwest of the community of Stokes Bay. The inland portions of the wetland consist mainly of swamp. Portions along the shore are virtually all marsh with swamp further back from the shoreline. Since much of the complex borders on Lake Huron it is of little hydrological significance. Nevertheless, significant portions of the wetland complex occupy palustrine and riverine sites. The latter is located along the Stokes River. Soils are chiefly organic and habitat diversity and primary productivity are moderate.

Dominant plants within the swamp areas of the wetland include Eastern White Cedar, Balsam Fir, Red Maple, ash and poplars; in marsh areas Wild Celery, Sweet Gale, Yellow Water Lily, Coontail, cattails, bulrushes and sedges predominate.

Muskrats, Raccoons, Beavers, Red Foxes and Mink are found in the wetland. Good winter cover exists within the wetland for White-tailed Deer.

The Stokes Bay wetland is privately owned. The intensity of hunting, fishing, boating and nature appreciation is high. Several universities and naturalist clubs make use of the wetland for nature study. Human disturbance is limited to some roads, buildings and a utility corridor.

Special Features

The Stokes Bay Wetland provides habitat for the provincially significant Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake, Double-crested Cormorant and Northern Pintail as well as the provincially rare plant Indian Plantain. Stokes Bay is an important stopover area for migratory shorebirds and is regionally significant for the spawning and rearing of bass, perch and catfish.

SUCKER CREEK WETLAND

Region - Southwestern
District - Owen Sound
Conservation Authority
- Sauble Valley

County - Bruce
Township - Albemarle
Con. IV-VI
Lots 6-11

Latitude - 44° 50'
Longitude - 81° 18'

Total Size - 146 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
56 per cent swamp
25 per cent marsh
19 per cent fen

General Description

This wetland is located along Sucker Creek and Lake Huron, just north of Howdenvale Bay. It is hydrologically connected to the Howdenvale wetland by the shore of Lake Huron. The dominant site type is riverine, along Sucker Creek. The course of Sucker Creek is lined with a wetland mosaic of beaver-flooded ponds, marshes, wet shrub thickets and bottomland deciduous swamps.

Interspersion of vegetation forms in the wetland is moderate, mainly because of the high diversity of communities along the creek and at the rivermouth. Soils are primarily organic. Dominant vegetation includes White Birch, Eastern White Cedar and dogwoods in the swamp areas and Sweet Gale, cattails and bulrushes in the marsh areas. In the fens sedges predominate and are interspersed with Eastern White Cedar and Sweet Gale. Fen vegetation is typical of the rich calcareous fens of the Bruce Peninsula. This fen is exceptional because it is so well preserved. In addition to the provincially significant plant species present, regionally significant plants in the wetland include Dwarf Huckleberry, Heartleaf Twayblade, Trailing Arbutus, One-leaf Rein-orchid and bur reeds.

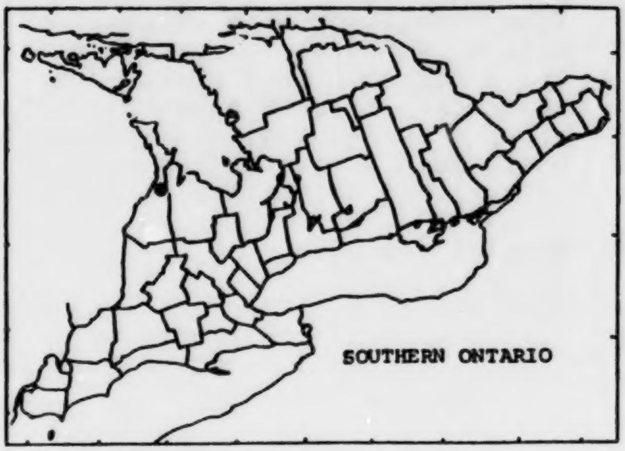
Winter cover within the wetland is important for the White-tailed Deer, Red Fox and Ruffed Grouse. Muskrats, Raccoons, Mink and Beavers, as well as the regionally significant Barred Owl, are also present.

Approximately 11 per cent of Sucker Creek wetland is privately owned. The wetland is largely undisturbed apart from a road and some cottage development. St. Jean's Point Nature Preserve, located near the southern tip of the wetland, comprises about four per cent of the wetland and the Sucker Creek Management Area accounts for the remaining area. The ecological importance of the area is also the basis for its listing as a provincially significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI).

Special Features

The Sucker Creek Wetland supports the provincially rare Tuberous Indian Plantain. The area is also highly significant as a stopover for migrating birds.

TARA WETLAND



Region - Southwestern
District - Owen Sound
Conservation Authority
- Sauble Valley

County - Bruce, Grey
Township - Arran
Conc. I-II
Lot 35-36
Township - Elderslie
Conc. XIV
Lots 35-36
Township - Sullivan
Conc. XIII
Lot 11

Latitude - 44° 25'
Longitude - 81° 06'

Total Size - 131 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
67 per cent swamp
33 per cent marsh

General Description

The Tara Wetland is a floodplain located on the Sauble River approximately ten kilometres upstream from the village of Tara. The wetland is dominated by zones of hardwood swamp broken intermittently by zones of thicket swamp and narrow-leaved emergents.

The wetland is an important spring staging area for the Canada Goose and provides winter cover for the Red Fox and Ruffed Grouse. It is also a spawning area for Northern Pike. The wetland supports a bait fish operation and is heavily trapped for Muskrats, Raccoons, Mink, Red Foxes and weasels.

All the property in the Tara wetland is privately owned. Human disturbance to the wetland is moderate and is mainly due to cattle grazing. Drainage and filling have also resulted in a substantial loss of wetland.

Special Features

Flow stabilization of the Sauble River is one of the

Tara wetland's most valuable features. This is particularly important since much of the land below the wetland is devoted to agriculture and because of its proximity to the village of Tara. There are no detention areas within 30 kilometres either above or below the wetland. The Tara wetland is one of the few staging areas in its region utilized by large numbers of Northern Pintail.

SIMCOE DISTRICT

Wetlands	Class	County or Regional Municipality	page
Hatchley Swamp	1	Brant	249
Long Point	1	Haldimand-Norfolk	251
Nanticoke Creek Marsh	3	Haldimand-Norfolk	253
Peripheral Marsh	2	Haldimand-Norfolk	254
Turkey Point Marsh	1	Haldimand-Norfolk	256
Waterford Ponds	1	Haldimand-Norfolk	258

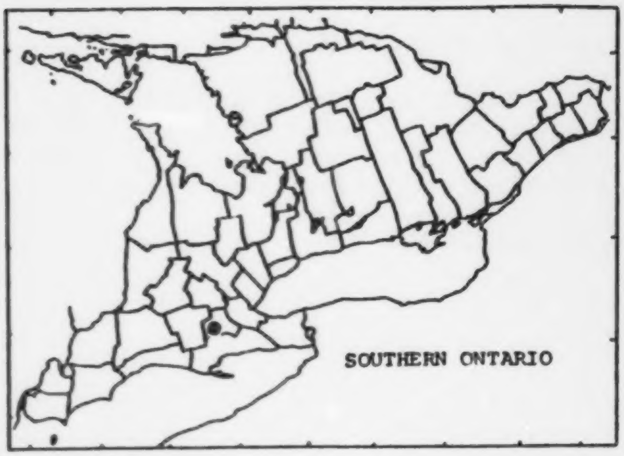
HATCHLEY SWAMP

Region - Southwestern
District - Simcoe
Conservation Authority
- Long Point Region

County - Brant
Township - Burford
Con. X-XIV
Lots 15-21

Latitude - 43° 00′
Longitude - 80° 30′

Total Size - 905.9 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
98 per cent swamp
2 per cent marsh



General Description

This wetland complex is located about 25 km southwest of Brantford and is composed of 12 individual wetlands ranging in size from two to 811 ha. The dominant site type is palustrine, the remainder being isolated or riverine. The wetland area comprises eight per cent of its 109 square kilometre catchment basin; thus it is of value for flow stabilization and augmentation, which is important here as the land in the catchment basin is primarily agricultural and urban. Hatchley Swamp is hydrologically connected to the nearby Big Creek Marsh, providing a habitat linkage for wildlife.

There is a high diversity of vegetation communities in the wetland. Swamp communities are dominated by maples, ashes, poplars, willows, ferns, sedges and grasses. Purple Loosestrife, cattails, dogwoods, dewberries and ferns predominate in marsh areas.

The high diversity of habitats in the surrounding area provides good winter cover for rabbits. The area is locally significant for waterfowl staging and production; it also provides nesting habitat for the Great Blue Heron.

Forty per cent of Hatchley Swamp is privately owned. The remainder is owned by the Long Point Region Conservation Authority and is easily accessible at most times of the year. Recreational activities enjoyed in the wetland include hunting and some nature appreciation and study.

There are a few localized disturbances to Hatchley Swamp including roads, a utility corridor, channelization, drainage and logging.

Special Features

Hatchley Swamp provides habitat for the provincially significant Fowler's Toad, Black Rat Snake and Eastern Hognose Snake as well as the regionally significant Blanding's Turtle.

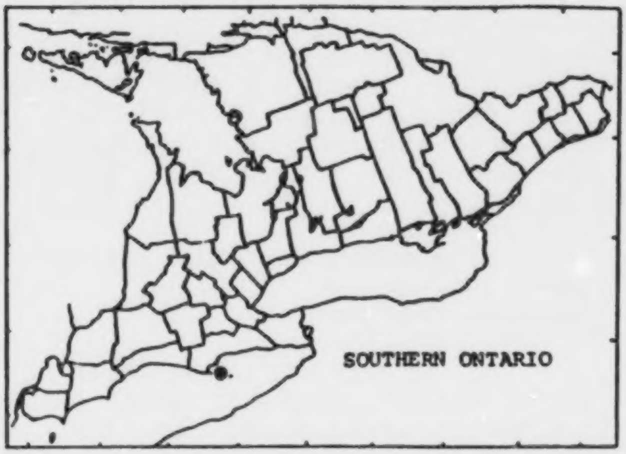
LONG POINT*

Region - Southwestern
District - Simcoe
Conservation Authority
- Long Point Region

Regional Municipality
- Haldimand-Norfolk
Township - Norfolk

Latitude - 42° 33′
Longitude - 80° 15′

Total Size - 7000 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
93 per cent marsh
7 per cent swamp



General Description

In 1979 the Long Point Company transferred ownership of 3250 hectares of one of Canada's most unique wetland habitats to the Canadian Wildlife Service. This area (Long Point National Wildlife Area) and the Big Creek National Wildlife Area (770 ha) at the base of Long Point are now managed by the Canadian Wildlife Service with the objective of protecting and maintaining habitat vital for wildlife. Long Point also includes the Lee Brown Marsh (Long Point Conservation Authority), a Provincial Waterfowl Management Area, the Long Point Company marshes (private) and about 400 hectares of privately owned marshes. Many organizations have noted the importance of Long Point; the parks branch of the Ministry of Natural Resources has listed it as a provincially significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI).

Long Point is a mecca for naturalists. Every spring thousands of people visit Long Point to view migrating Tundra Swans and waterfowl. Later in the spring, Long Point rivals Point Pelee in its variety and abundance of migrating birds. After an absence of many years, the Bald Eagle has returned to nest at Long Point. Seventeen provincially significant birds nest at Long Point, more species than in any other wetland in Ontario. The Forster's Tern has nested in the marshes of Long Point since 1975. The colony is presently the largest in Ontario. The Hahn Woods is now considered to be one of the most important nesting localities for the Prothonotary Warbler in Canada. A small colony of Great Blue Herons is located on Cedar Ridge. Some of the 60 provincially rare plants occurring at Long Point include Broad-winged Sedge, Yellow Cyperus and two species of spike-rush, species which are found nowhere else in Canada.

Provincially significant mammals (Least Shrew), reptiles (Eastern Fox Snake, Eastern Hognose Snake, Queen Snake, Spotted Turtle, Eastern Spiny Softshell Turtle), amphibians (Fowler's Toad, Blue-spotted Salamander) and fish (Spotted Gar) are all components of the fauna of Long Point. The White-tailed Deer is so numerous that its browsing prevents the undergrowth from developing in most parts of Long Point.

Long Point is truly Southern Ontario's 'wilderness'.

Special Features

Long Point, the longest sandspit in the Great Lakes, is a unique combination of habitats: sand-dunes, wooded ridges, wet meadows, coniferous and deciduous swamps, deep and shallow marshes and ponds. With over 60 provincially and more than 90 regionally rare plant species, Long Point's botanical importance is unquestionable. The area also provides habitat for the endangered Bald Eagle as well as 17 provincially significant bird species. As a staging area for waterfowl Long Point ranks among Canada's nationally significant sites. Long Point is also of exceptional significance for migrating passerine birds.

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* **FOOTNOTE:** Long Point, Turkey Point and Peripheral Marshes are now classified as one large, class 1 wetland complex.

NANTICOKE CREEK MARSH

Region - Southwestern
District - Simcoe
Conservation Authority
- Long Point Region

Regional Municipality
- Haldimand-Norfolk
City of Nanticoke

Latitude - 42° 47'
Longitude - 80° 04'

Total Size - 23.4 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
100 per cent marsh

General Description

This small marsh is located about ten kilometres east of Port Dover. The site type is riverine along Nanticoke Creek, where the creek joins Long Point Bay.

Vegetation forms are moderately well interspersed in the Nanticoke Creek marsh. Cattails, arrowheads and sedges predominate in the marsh with submergents occurring throughout the open water areas. The wetland provides a feeding area for herons and terns and is of regional significance for the spawning and rearing of perch, bass and other fish. Commercial fish (bait fish and/or coarse fish) are harvested from Nanticoke Creek. Other resources present include Bullfrogs and Snapping Turtles.

Although the wetland is privately owned, hunting, fishing and boating are all enjoyed here. There is very little human disturbance to the Nanticoke Creek Marsh. Minor disturbances include roads, a utility corridor, buildings and channelization.

Special Features

The Nanticoke Creek Marsh provides habitat for the provincially significant Marsh Wren and Silver Chub.

PERIPHERAL MARSH*

Region - Southwestern
District - Simcoe
Conservation Authority
- Long Point Region

Regional Municipality
- Haldimand-Norfolk
Township - Norfolk
Con. A Lots 15-17
1 18-24

Latitude - 42° 38′
Longitude - 80° 29′

Total Size - 1385 ha
Class - 2
Type of Wetland -
100 per cent marsh

General Description

This large marsh is located along the shore of Lake Erie between Turkey Point and Long Point. The marsh has value as a long-term nutrient trap as it is located on an active delta. The dominant site type is lacustrine. Most of the wetland is adjacent to Lake Erie but a portion of it is located at the mouth of Dedrick's Creek.

There is very little interspersion of vegetation communities in the marsh. Cattails predominate and are mixed with bulrushes, sedges, grasses, dogwoods and maples. More than three-quarters of the wetland is covered by open water; vegetation in these areas consists of Coontail, duckweeds and other submergent and floating plants.

The wetland is a regionally significant fish spawning and rearing area. Commercial fish are harvested from the marsh. Other resources present include Wild Rice, Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles, Muskrats, Raccoons and Mink.

Ten per cent of Peripheral Marsh is privately owned. The marsh is used extensively for recreational activities such as hunting, fishing and boating.

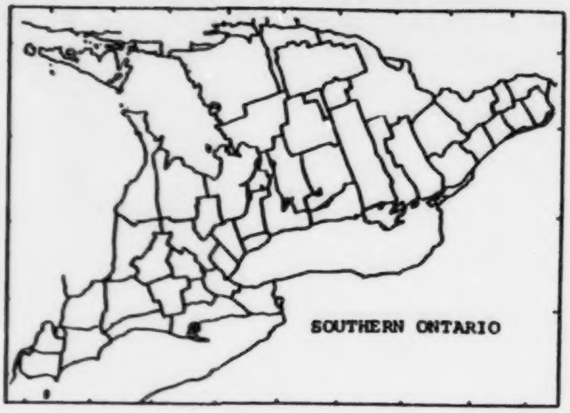
There are a few localized disturbances to Peripheral Marsh; foremost among these is channelization.

Special Features

Peripheral Marsh provides habitat for the provincially significant Marsh Wren and Prothonotary Warbler. The area is also of national significance for waterfowl staging.

* **FOOTNOTE:** Long Point, Turkey Point and Peripheral Marshes are now classified as one large, class 1 wetland complex.

TURKEY POINT MARSH*



Region - Southwestern
District - Simcoe
Conservation Authority
- Long Point Region

Regional Municipality
- Haldimand-Norfolk
Township - Delhi
Con. South of B

Latitude - 42° 40′
Longitude - 80° 21′

Total Size - 3088.4 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
97 per cent marsh
2 per cent swamp
1 per cent bog

General Description

This large marsh is located on a point of land extending into Long Point Bay in Lake Erie, just north of Long Point.

There is a high diversity of vegetation communities in the wetland. Marsh vegetation consists primarily of cattail stands with bulrush borders interspersed with poplars, ferns, grasses and sedges. Cottonwoods, willows, poplars, dogwoods, ferns and horsetails predominate in swamp areas while bog vegetation includes Black Huckleberry, Skunk Cabbage, Marsh Marigold, White Cedar, Black Spruce, Tamarack, sphagnum mosses and blueberries. Open water areas contain submergents such as Coontail, Yellow Water Lily and White Water Lily.

Turkey Point Marsh provides locally important winter habitat for deer and is a provincially significant waterfowl staging area. The wetland is also highly significant for migratory passerines and is regionally significant for fish spawning and rearing.

Ninety-five per cent of Turkey Point Marsh is privately owned. It is recognized by the Ministry of Natural Resources as a provincially significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI). There is a high intensity of hunting and fishing in the wetland as well as some nature appreciation. Resources present in Turkey Point Marsh include a good cover of mature timber, Wild Rice, commercially valuable fish, Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles, Muskrats, Raccoons and Mink.

There are a few localized disturbances to this wetland including roads, buildings, a utility corridor, channelization and drainage.

Special Features

Turkey Point Marsh supports the endangered Small White Lady's Slipper as well as the provincially significant Bayberry. It also provides breeding or feeding habitat for the provincially significant Black Tern, Marsh Wren and Brindled Madtom. Turkey Point contains one of Ontario's most southerly bogs.

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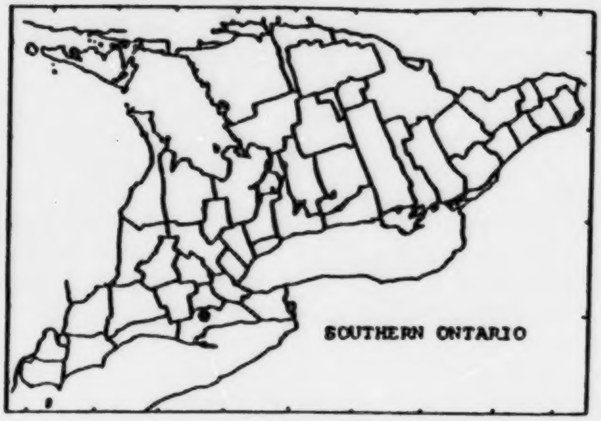
* **FOOTNOTE:** Long Point, Turkey Point and Peripheral Marshes are now classified as one large, class 1 wetland complex.

WATERFORD PONDS



Region - Southwestern
District - Simcoe
Conservation Authority
- Long Point Region

Regional Municipality
- Haldimand-Norfolk
Township - Townsend
Con. VII Lots 3-6
VIII 3-6

Latitude - 42° 56'
Longitude - 80° 18'

Total Size - 287.6 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
61 per cent marsh
39 per cent swamp

General Description

Waterford Ponds wetland complex is located about 10 kilometres north of Simcoe. It is comprised of five individual wetlands ranging in size from 7.6 to 170 ha. Where it borders Nanticoke Creek, the wetland is predominantly riverine; secondary site types are lacustrine, palustrine and isolated. Its surface area allows it to function as a detention area for floodwaters and for flow augmentation. Three-quarters of the wetland is covered by open water.

Interspersion of vegetation forms is medium in the wetland. Marsh vegetation is dominated by Coontail, cattails, bur reeds, grasses and willows with Coontail, bladderworts and duckweeds in open water areas. Trees and shrubs such as Black Walnut, maples, poplars, dogwoods and sumacs, mixed with wild grapes, ferns and sedges predominate in swamp areas. Since trees and shrubs are the dominant vegetation forms on the shoreland and in the floodplain, they tend to control erosion in the riverine wetlands.

Waterford Ponds provide a locally significant area for waterfowl production, particularly for the Canada Goose and Wood Duck, and serve as a fish spawning and rearing area. Resources present at Waterford Ponds include mature timber, bait fish, Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles and furbearers such as Muskrats, Raccoons and Mink.

Sixty-seven per cent of this wetland is privately owned while the remainder is public allowing restricted activities. All of the area is easily accessible throughout the year. Hunting, fishing, boating and nature appreciation are recreational activities commonly enjoyed at Waterford Ponds. Day-use hikers frequently visit the area to use the system of trails.

There are several localized disturbances to Waterford Ponds wetland including roads, buildings, a utility corridor, channelization, a railway and aggregate extraction.

Special Features

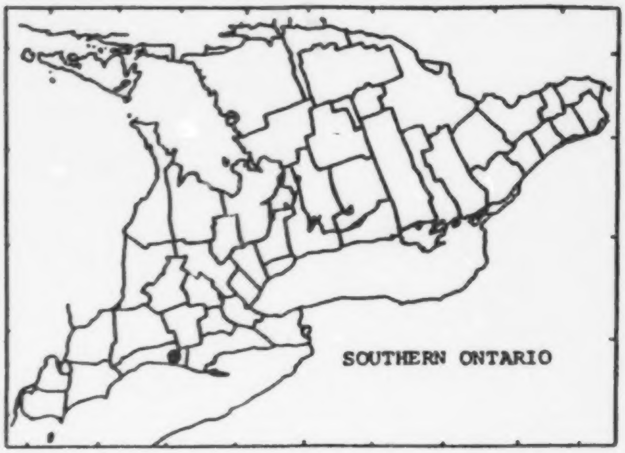
This wetland exhibits high biological productivity and diversity. The following provincially rare plants grow at Waterford Ponds: Winged Loosestrife; Southern Yellow Pond-lily; Panic Grass, Panicum rigidulum; and the Nut Rush, Scleria verticillata. In addition, the regionally rare Hooded Ladies Tresses, Muhly and Panic Grass Panicum flexile can be found in this wetland.

AYLMER DISTRICT

Wetland	Class	County	page
Aylmer Wildlife Management Area	3	Elgin	263
Calton Swamp	2	Elgin	265
Corner's Pond	3	Elgin	267
Dexter Woodlot	3	Elgin	268
ES-1 Wetland	3	Elgin	270
ES-2 Wetland	3	Elgin	271
EY-9 Wetland	3	Elgin	272
EY-10 Wetland	3	Elgin	273
EY-24 Wetland	3	Elgin	274
Glanworth Wetland	2	Middlesex, Elgin	275
Hearns Wetland	3	Middlesex	277
Jolley Swamp	3	Elgin	279
Kettle Creek Woods	1	Elgin	280
Kirk-Cousins Management Area	3	Middlesex	282
Lake Whittaker	2	Middlesex	284
Moore's Water Gardens	3	Elgin	286
Sifton Botanical Bog	2	Middlesex	288
Springwater Conservation Area	1	Elgin	290
Straffordville Swamp	3	Elgin	292
Weiner's Woodlot	3	Elgin	293

AYLMER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Region - Southwestern
District - Aylmer
Conservation Authority
- Catfish Creek



County - Elgin
Township - Malahide
Con. VIII
Lots 18-20

Latitude - 42° 48′
Longitude - 80° 56′

Total Size - 19.6 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
71 per cent marsh
29 per cent swamp

General Description

This palustrine wetland is based mainly on mineral soils. The vegetation communities surrounding the impoundments are not diverse; cattails and willows are predominant. However, the area surrounding the wetland is very diverse and includes agricultural land, deciduous forest and fence rows. Open water is well distributed throughout the wetland.

Furbearers such as Muskrats, Raccoons and Mink are present and Bullfrogs and Snapping Turtles also inhabit this wetland. The area is of regional significance for waterfowl staging and is important locally for waterfowl production.

There is a high level of human disturbance. Roads, utility rights-of-way, buildings, channelization, drainage, filling and water pollution all occur in the wetland.

Hundreds of people visit the Aylmer Wildlife Management Area every spring to observe the Tundra Swans and other waterfowl. A large enclosed observation tower is located adjacent to the impoundments to allow exceptionally close viewing. There is no interpretation centre but personnel from the Ministry of Natural Resources carry out numerous management programs such as habitat improvement and banding. Observation points are designated through the wetland and literature is available.

Special Features

Since 1962 the Aylmer Wildlife Management Area has been managed to encourage a variety of song and game birds. The area now has a resident flock of Canada Geese and is a spring and fall staging area for as many as 20,000 waterfowl. The main attraction of the Aylmer Wildlife Management Area is the presence of thousands of Tundra Swans which can be viewed at close range during March and early April. Provincially significant birds such as the Pied-billed Grebe, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Northern Harrier and Short-eared Owl regularly feed in the area.

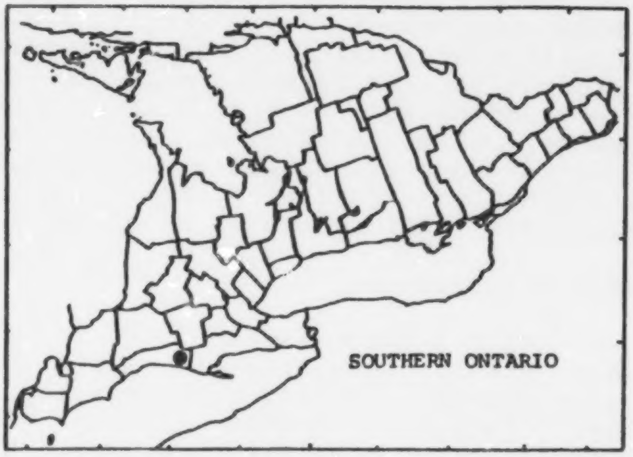
CALTON SWAMP

Region - Southwestern
District - Aylmer
Conservation Authority
- Catfish Creek

County - Elgin
Township - Malahide
Con. IV,
Lots 22-25, 28-33
Con. V, Lots 25, 26

Latitude - 42° 36′
Longitude - 80° 55′

Total Size - 50.3 ha
Class - 2
Type of Wetland -
61 per cent swamp
39 per cent marsh



General Description

The complex contains 13 individual wetlands ranging in size from 0.4 ha to 20 ha. The swamp is located in a depression in the upper part of the Silver Creek watershed and is formed by a beaver dam on an old municipal drain. It is something of an ecological island in a heavily cleared and farmed agricultural region of southwestern Ontario. The site type is palustrine but the area is of little hydrological significance.

Soils in the wetland are mainly mineral types covered with layers of fibrous peat and muck. In the surrounding land, soils are sandy loam and clay loam. Under normal conditions the swamp floods an area of about 25 ha; this varies seasonally from 18 ha to 30 ha. Open water areas are broken up forming a complex pattern of waterways and ponds, increasing the edge area.

Submergent vegetation in open water areas is poor due to water turbidity, low oxygen supply and thick duckweed cover. The dominant vegetation types are emergents. At the edge between water and upland areas, vegetation is particularly abundant and varied, occurring in complex communities which provide a rich habitat for wildlife. The surrounding habitat includes abandoned fields, dry and seasonally flooded woodlots and a pine plantation. The immediate vicinity is heavily wooded and upland areas slope gently away from the wetland.

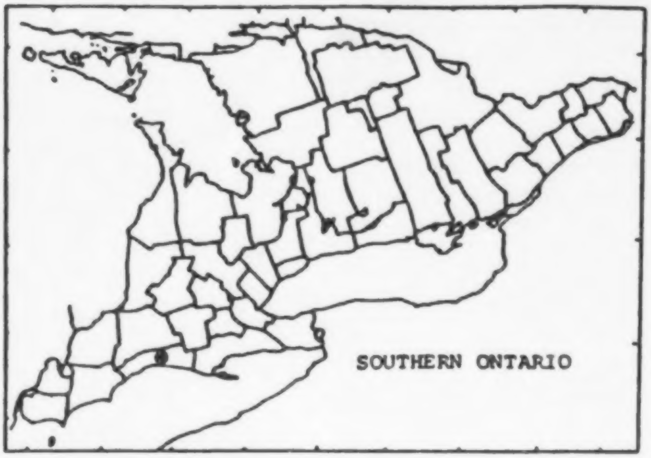
The swamp is locally significant as a waterfowl production and staging site and provides good winter cover for small game. Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles, Muskrats, Raccoons, Beavers, Mink and weasels are all present.

There is considerable hunting in the wetland, a moderate amount of nature appreciation and frequent educational visits. Human disturbance in the area is present in the form of roads and drainage relating to the surrounding agricultural lands. This wetland is also a Ducks Unlimited project area. About two-thirds of the Calton Swamp is publicly owned. The swamp is part of the regionally significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) known as Mount Salem Forest.

Special Features

Calton Swamp is among the few environments of this type and extent remaining in Elgin County. The swamp is occasionally utilized as a staging area by the Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon during their migration. The provincially significant Northern Harrier occurs here. In addition, regionally rare plants such as Stout Reed Grass, Flowering Dogwood and Canada Waterleaf grow in the Calton Swamp.

CORNER'S POND



Region - Southwestern
District - Aylmer
Conservation Authority
- Kettle Creek

County - Elgin
Township - Yarmouth
Con. IV, V
Lot 15

Latitude - 43° 00′
Longitude - 81° 07′

Total Size - 7.2 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
70 per cent swamp
30 per cent marsh

General Description

This wetland is a riverine site, located in a fertile agricultural area southeast of St. Thomas. Soils are mainly well drained sandy loam and till. Corner's Pond provides some erosion control and water quality improvement.

Vegetation communities are not very diverse but are moderately interspersed. Open water is present in a single central area.

Resources include Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles, Muskrats, Raccoons, Beavers, Mink and Red Foxes. Fish are abundant and Corner's Pond is a spawning site. However, little fishing or hunting takes place. There is a moderate level of nature appreciation and boating activity. Corner's Pond receives frequent educational use.

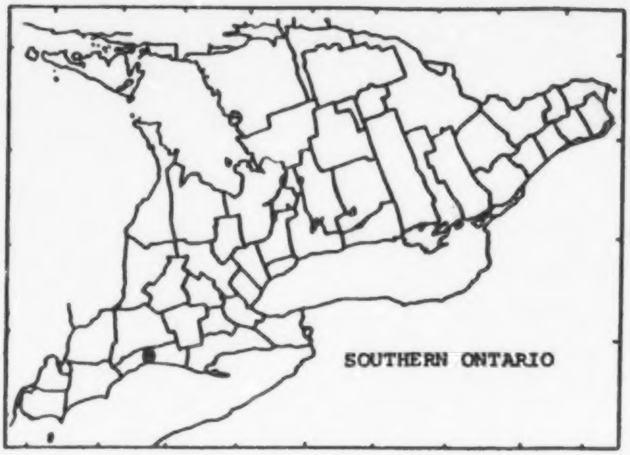
Corner's Pond is privately owned but permission to visit the area may be obtained from the owners.

Special Features

Two endangered species, the Bald Eagle and the Peregrine Falcon, have been known to use Corner's Pond as a stopover site during their migration. The provincially significant Northern Harrier and Marsh Wren are also present and the area provides regionally significant Beaver habitat.

DEXTER WOODLOT

Region - Southwestern
District - Aylmer
Conservation Authority
- Kettle Creek



County - Elgin
Township - Yarmouth
Con. II
Lots 12,13
Con. III
Lots 11-13

Lat - 42 41'
Long - 81 08'

Total Size - 10.3 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
90 per cent swamp
10 per cent marsh

General Description

The area is a complex of five small individual wetlands ranging in size from 1.0 ha to 2.8 ha. It is a riverine site with organic soils. The Dexter Woodlot wetland is of little value for flow stabilization or erosion control. It is, however, moderately effective as a short-term nutrient trap.

The surrounding area is mainly agricultural land and deciduous forest. There is little open water in the wetland. Vegetation communities are quite varied but poorly interspersed. Deciduous trees such as Black Ash and soft maples dominate the upper strata with Buttonbush and dogwoods also present. Lower strata varieties include Jewelweed, sedges, grasses, duckweeds and mosses.

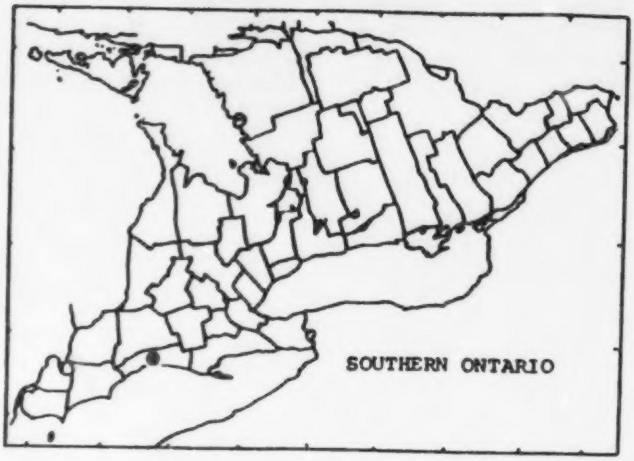
Many of the trees in the wetland are mature and timber is harvested from the area. Other resources present in the Dexter Woodlot are Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles and Raccoons. Recreational activity in the wetland is limited to a moderate amount of hunting.

Human disturbance is limited to localized effects related to the harvest of timber. The wetland is privately owned.

Special Features

Two endangered species, the Bald Eagle and the Peregrine Falcon, are occasionally sighted in the Dexter Woodlot during migration. The Northern Harrier, a provincially significant species, is also found here.

ES-1 WETLAND



Region - Southwestern
District - Aylmer
Conservation Authority
- Kettle Creek

County - Elgin
Township - Southwold
Con. 2nd R.N.U.R
Lots 14,15

Latitude - 42° 42'
Longitude - 81° 13'

Total Size - 5.3 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
50 per cent marsh
50 per cent swamp

General Description

This wetland is located on a palustrine site with organic soils. Due to its small size this area is of little hydrological value. Vegetation communities in the wetland are not very diverse. Willows are abundant in mixed communities which also include Jewelweed, cattails, dogwoods, bur reeds and grasses. Habitats surrounding the wetland include active and abandoned agricultural land, deciduous forest, hilly terrain and creeks. There is no open water in this area.

Resources in the area include a small amount of timber, bullfrogs and a few furbearers. There is a relative absence of human disturbance although some cattle graze in the area. The area is privately owned.

Special Features

Two endangered bird species, the Bald Eagle and the Peregrine Falcon, make use of this wetland during their migration. The presence of the Northern Harrier, a provincially significant bird species, gives the area added significance.

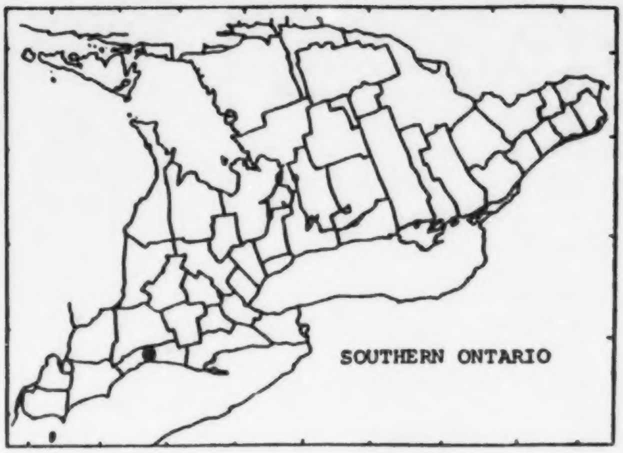
ES-2 WETLAND

Region - Southwestern
District - Aylmer
Conservation Authority
 - Lower Thames Valley

County - Elgin
Township - Southwold
Con. I, II
Lot 8

Latitude - 42° 42'
Longitude - 81° 15'

Total Size - 3.4 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
80 per cent swamp
20 per cent marsh



General Description

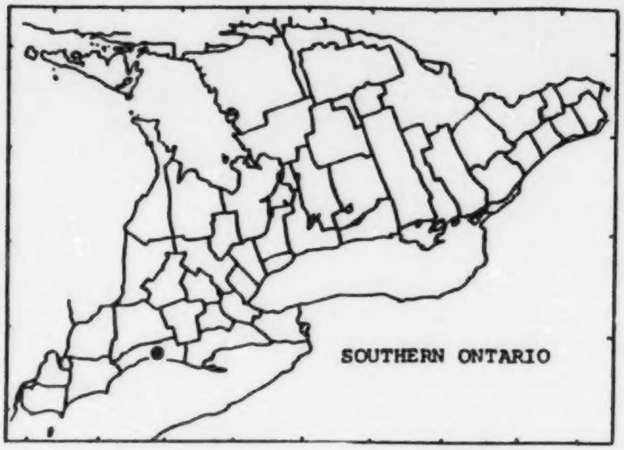
This complex is composed of two individual wetlands, 1.3 ha and 2.1 ha in size. It is on a palustrine site with mineral soils. Because of its small size it is of little hydrological significance. Vegetation communities within the wetland are not very diverse. Red Maple, cattail, herbs and sedges are found throughout the wetland. Habitats surrounding the wetland include cropland, pasture, deciduous forest, fence rows and hills.

Portions of the swamp have been affected by logging. Snapping Turtles, Muskrats and Raccoons are found in the wetland and the area provides good winter cover for small game. There is a high level of human disturbance of the area, mainly from logging and drainage. Some hunting and nature appreciation activity occurs but there are no organized facilities or programs. Ownership is entirely private.

Special Features

This wetland is significant as a resting site during migration for two endangered bird species, the Bald Eagle and the Peregrine Falcon. The provincially significant Northern Harrier is also found here. Marsh and swamp habitats are regionally rare in the Lake Erie Plain area.

EY-9 WETLAND



Region - Southwestern
District - Aylmer
Conservation Authority
-Kettle Creek

County - Elgin
Townships - Yarmouth
Con. III
Lot 21

Latitude - 42° 41'
Longitude - 81° 05'

Total Size - 7.1 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
62 per cent swamp
38 per cent marsh

General Description

This wetland is on a palustrine site with entirely mineral soils. Other wetlands are found within one kilometre but these are not hydrologically connected to EY-9. Surrounding habitats also include agricultural land, deciduous forest and creeks. There is little open water in the wetland. Vegetation is somewhat diverse with mixed communities of Jewelweed, bur-reeds, spike-rushes, willows, grasses and other herbs.

Few recreational activities are carried out in the wetland and it has no organized facilities or programs. The area is relatively free of human disturbances, although portions of the swamp have been drained. The area is privately owned.

Special Features

This wetland, located in a region in which wetlands are scarce, is used occasionally by the migrating Peregrine Falcon.

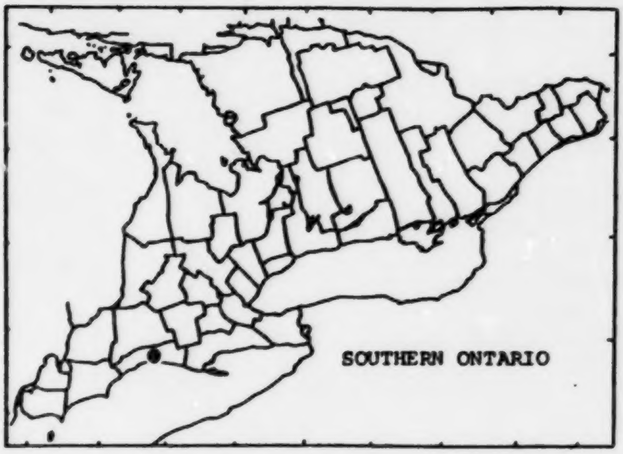
EY-10 WETLAND

Region - Southwestern
District - Aylmer
Conservation Authority
- Kettle Creek

County - Elgin
Township - Yarmouth
Con. III
Lots 17,18

Latitude - 42° 41'
Longitude - 81° 16'

Total Size - 3.6 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
100 per cent swamp



General Description

EY-10 is a palustrine site with mineral soils. The wetland is too small to be hydrologically significant.

Surrounding habitats include active and abandoned agricultural land, deciduous forest, fence rows and creeks. Other wetlands are also nearby.

Vegetation is not diverse. Soft maples, Black Ash and grasses are present and there is minimal interspersion of communities. Snapping Turtles and Raccoons are present.

There is no recreational or educational use of the area. Ownership is private and accessibility is limited. Parts of the swamp have been drained.

Special Features

This Lake Erie Plain wetland provides habitat for the Peregrine Falcon during migration.

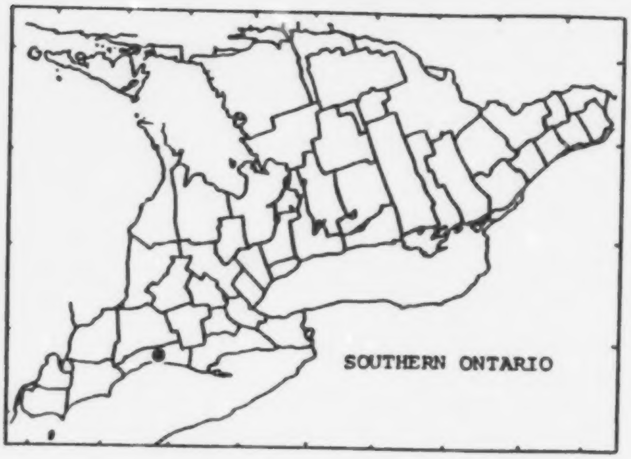
EY-24 WETLAND

Region - Southwestern
District - Aylmer
Conservation Authority
- Kettle Creek

County - Elgin
Township - Yarmouth
Con. II, Lots 9,10

Latitude - 41° 00'
Longitude - 81° 09'

Total Size - 3.9 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
87 per cent marsh
13 per cent swamp



General Description

EY-24 is composed of two small individual wetlands, 1.9 ha and 2.0 ha in size, which were created by the damming of local streams. This is a palustrine site with mineral soils. Nearby wetlands are connected to EY-24 by surface water. The wetland is surrounded by urban development and deciduous forest as well as active and abandoned agricultural land.

There is little interspersion of vegetation communities in the wetland and these communities are not very diverse. The area is dominated by willows, cattails, water lilies, grasses and duckweeds. Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles and furbearers (Muskrats, Raccoons) are found in the EY-24 wetland.

Nature appreciation and boating are the most common recreational activities associated with EY-24 but some hunting and fishing also occur in the wetland. Local school and youth groups frequently visit EY-24 for educational activities. The area is privately owned.

Special Features

The EY-24 wetland provides habitat for two endangered species during their migration, the Bald Eagle and the Peregrine Falcon. The Northern Harrier, a provincially significant species, is also found here. The area is also locally significant for waterfowl staging and production.

GLANWORTH WETLAND

Region - Southwestern
District - Aylmer
Conservation Authority
- Kettle Creek

County - Middlesex,
Elgin
Township - Westminster
Con. VIII, Lots 15, 16
Con. IX, Lots 14, 15

Township - Yarmouth
Con. XIII, Lots 3-6
Con. XII, Lots 5, 6

Latitude - 42° 51'
Longitude - 81° 11'

Total Size - 38.2 ha
Class - 2
Type of Wetland -
85 per cent swamp
15 per cent marsh

General Description

This complex is composed of 11 individual wetlands ranging in size from 0.24 ha to 10.4 ha. This is a palustrine site with mostly organic soils. Some areas of imperfectly drained glacial till occur in the Glanworth Wetland. Open water, distributed as a system of small channels and ponds among islands and protrusions of vegetation, is abundant in the wetland. Vegetation communities are very diverse with communities of mixed vegetational types (trees, tall shrubs, emergents, floating plants and submergents) predominating. Surrounding habitats include agricultural land, urban and industrial development and deciduous forest.

A small amount of timber is present in the wetland and fish are abundant for at least part of the year. Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles and furbearers such as Muskrats, Raccoons, and Beavers are also present. There is a moderate level of human disturbance due to some drainage and filling. The entire wetland is privately owned.

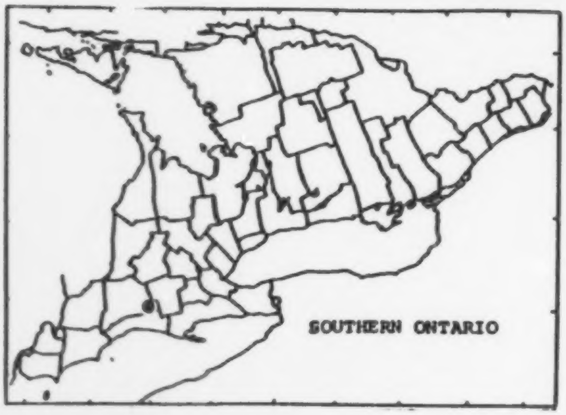
Special Features

The provincially significant Pied-billed Grebe and

Northern Harrier are both found in the Glanworth wetland. The area also provides feeding habitat for the Great Blue Heron and is regionally significant as Beaver habitat. The wetland is located on the Lake Erie Plain, a region in which wetlands are scarce.

HEARNS WETLAND

Region - Southwestern
District - Aylmer
Conservation Authority
- Kettle Creek



County - Middlesex
Township - North Dorchester
Con. III-IV
Lots 14-15

Latitude - 42^{o} 55′
Longitude - 81^{o} 01′

Total Size - 5.25 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
78 per cent swamp
22 per cent marsh

General Description

The Hearns Wetland is a complex of eight small wetland areas ranging in size from 0.5 ha to 1.5 ha. It is on a palustrine site with mineral soils. The area is of little general hydrological significance although it is of some value for water quality improvement.

Hearns Wetland is located in moderately diverse surroundings with abandoned fields, hills, crop and pasture land and deciduous forest all represented in nearby habitats. Open water occupies much of the area and is well distributed through the swamp. Vegetation communities in the wetand are diverse but poorly interspersed. Dominant varieties of vegetation are cattails, water lilies, duckweeds, maples and various shrubs.

Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles and furbearers (Muskrats, Raccoons, Beavers, Mink) are all found in the Hearns Wetland. Fishing takes place in the wetland and a moderate amount of nature appreciation also occurs. Local naturalists occasionally visit the area and make use of the system of self-guiding trails which is present.

Human disturbance is nearly absent from the area, aside from some roads. The wetland is privately owned.

Special Features

The Pied-billed Grebe, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Northern Harrier and Marsh Wren, all provincially significant species, are found in the Hearns Wetland. The area is also locally significant for waterfowl staging and production.

JOLLEY SWAMP

Region - Southwestern
District - Aylmer
Conservation Authority
- Kettle Creek

County - Elgin
Township - Yarmouth
Con. V, Lot 8
Con. IV, Lots 7,8

Latitude - 42° 43′
Longitude - 81° 10′

Total Size - 5.6 ha
Class - 3

55.5 per cent marsh
44.5 per cent swamp

General Description

The Jolley Swamp is a complex of five small wetlands with sizes ranging from 0.64 ha to 1.71 ha. It is a palustrine site with 55 per cent mineral and 45 per cent organic soils. There is very little open water in the wetland. In the surrounding area, deciduous forest, industrial development, and crop and pasture lands are among the habitats present. Other wetlands are nearby but are not hydrologically connected to the Jolley Swamp.

Interspersion of vegetation communities is low, as is their diversity. Cattails, duckweeds and beggar's-ticks dominate in the marsh areas, and maples, ashes and dogwoods dominate in the swamp areas.

Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles, Muskrats and Raccoons can be found in the Jolley Swamp. The wetland receives only a little recreational use. Human disturbance of the area is present as localized areas of channelization and drainage. Jolley Swamp is privately owned.

Special Features

The Jolley Swamp is significant in providing habitat to two endangered animal species; the Bald Eagle and the Peregrine Falcon occasionally use the wetland during migration. Also found in the area are two provincially significant species, the Northern Harrier and Marsh Wren. It is also a feeding area for the Great Blue Heron.

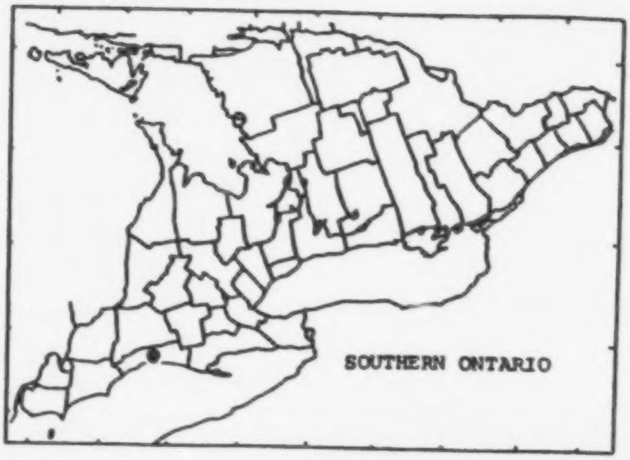
KETTLE CREEK WOODS

Region - Southwestern
District - Aylmer
Conservation Authority
- Kettle Creek

County - Elgin
Township - Yarmouth
Con. X, Lots 5-7
Con. XI, Lot 7
R.1N Edgeware Rd. Lot 5
R.2N Edgeware Rd. Lot 5

Latitude - 42° 48′
Longitude - 81° 10′

Total Size - 25.1 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
71.5 per cent swamp
28.5 per cent marsh



General Description

This complex, consisting of five individual wetlands ranging in size from 1.6 ha to 13.4 ha, is situated near St. Thomas. The site type is mainly riverine although some palustrine and lacustrine areas are present. Soils are mainly clay and silt loams with fair to good drainage. Erosion is a problem in the Kettle Creek area. The Kettle Creek Woods facilitates both erosion control and some flow stabilization along Kettle Creek.

Vegetation communities are diverse but poorly interspersed. Cattails, willows and grasses occur in mixed communities. Open water covers much of the area. Surrounding woodlands are dominated by maple-beech and ash-hickory communities. Other habitat surrounding the wetland includes active and abandoned agricultural land, mixed deciduous and coniferous forest, fence rows and other wetlands.

Wild Rice has been reported in this wetland but is not common. Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles and furbearers such as Muskrats, Raccoons, Beavers, Red Foxes and weasels are present. The Kettle Creek Woods provides regionally significant habitat for the the Sharp-shinned Hawk, Pickerel Frog, Northern Ribbon Snake and Milk Snake.

Frequent use is made of this wetland by the Elgin

County Board of Education. A system of self-guiding trails is present in the wetland and literature is available. Fishing and nature appreciation are activities enjoyed in this publicly owned wetland; hunting is not allowed. Human disturbance is moderate; there are roads through the area and water levels are affected by a nearby reservoir.

Special Features

The Kettle Creek Woods wetland provides habitat for the Great Blue Heron and Northern Harrier.

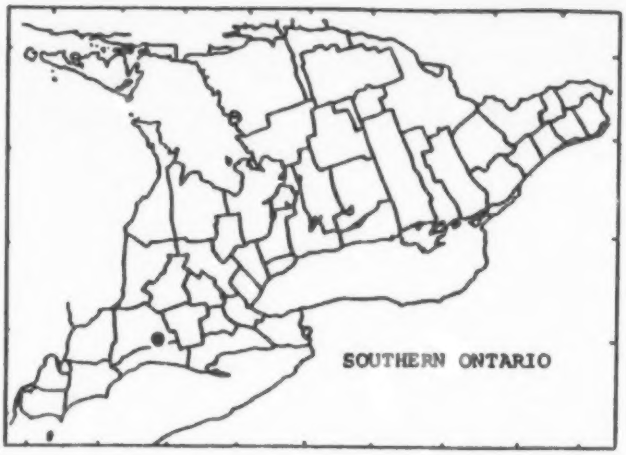
KIRK-COUSINS MANAGEMENT AREA

Region - Southwestern
District - Aylmer
Conservation Authority
- Kettle Creek

County - Middlesex
Township - Westminster
Con. V
Lots 14-15

Latitude - 42° 53′
Longitude - 81° 11′

Total Size - 15 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
80 per cent swamp
20 per cent marsh



General Description

The Kirk-Cousins Management Area is a complex of four individual wetlands ranging in size from 0.3 ha to 13 ha. Soils are mostly mineral. It is primarily a palustrine site but a small portion is isolated.

Open water in the wetland occurs in scattered ponds of various sizes but is not abundant. The area is connected by surface water to other wetlands nearby providing habitat linkage for wildlife. Hills, creeks, crop and pasture land and deciduous and coniferous forests surround the area. Vegetation communities in the wetland are quite diverse and are moderately well interspersed. Buttonbush, dead trees, elms, maples, willows and dogwoods are common and cattails, duckweeds and submergents dominate the marsh areas. Grasses, sedges and herbs are also abundant.

Some of the trees in the area are mature and suitable for timber. Other resources present with potential economic value include furbearers (Muskrats, Raccoons, Beavers), Bullfrogs and Snapping Turtles.

Nature appreciation is the most common recreational activity in the wetland. Some hunting also occurs. There are frequent educational visits from the adjacent Regina Mundi school.

The natural quality of the area has been disturbed to a moderate extent, mainly by water pollution. The

Kirk-Cousins wetland is mostly privately owned.

Special Features

The Kirk-Cousins Management Area provides habitat for the Northern Harrier, a provincially significant species. Beaver, a regionally significant species, is also present. The area provides good winter cover for song birds and is of local significance for waterfowl staging and production.

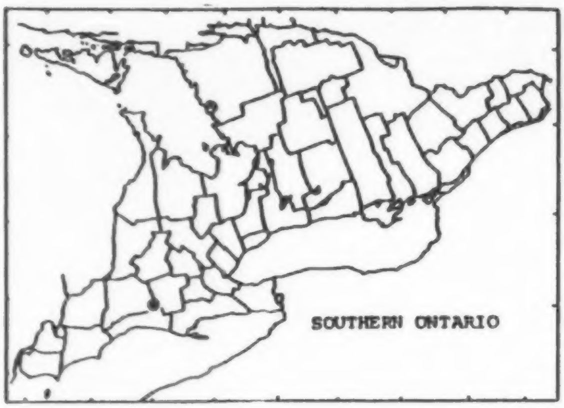
LAKE WHITTAKER

Region - Southwestern
District - Aylmer
Conservation Authority
- Kettle Creek

County - Middlesex
Township - Westminster
Con. V, Lots 6,7
Con. VI, Lots 6,7

Latitude - 42° 55′
Longitude - 80° 57′

Total Size - 29.5 ha
Class - 2
Type of Wetland -
79 per cent swamp
21 per cent marsh



General Description

This is a complex of three individual wetlands 0.69 ha, 0.71 ha, and 28.1 ha in size. The dominant site types are lacustrine and palustrine and a small proportion is riverine. Soils are mainly organic.

Vegetation communities here are diverse and moderately well interspersed. Areas of submergents, narrow-leaved emergents and floating plants are interspersed with communities of tall shrubs, robust emergents and herbs in both swamp and marsh areas of the wetland. Dominant species include Jewelweed, waterweeds, sedges, duckweeds, dogwoods and cattails.

There is little open water in this wetland, but since it is widely dispersed, the water-edge area is high. Other wetlands of a different dominant type are in proximity, but are not hydrologically connected to Lake Whittaker. Surrounding habitats are highly diverse; they include active and abandoned agricultural land, deciduous and coniferous forests, deep water areas, fence rows and hilly terrain.

Fish are abundant in the wetland for at least part of the year. Other resources present include Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles, Muskrats, Raccoons, Beavers and Mink. The area is used extensively for fishing and boating. Lake Whittaker is visited frequently by groups such as local schools, naturalists and day camps for nature appreciation and study. A system of self-guiding trails is present and literature is available.

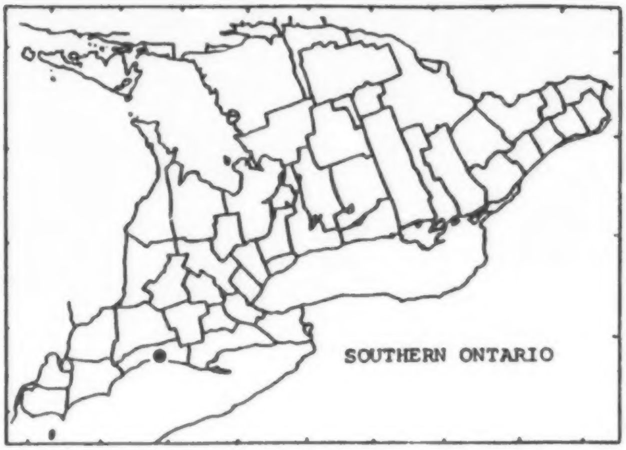
The area is almost entirely publicly owned with some restrictions on activities. Disturbances within the wetland are minimal.

Special Features

Lake Whittaker provides habitat for the Pied-billed Grebe and the Northern Harrier, both provincially significant species. The area is regionally significant as Beaver habitat and is a feeding area for colonial waterbirds. The presence of a kettle lake gives this wetland some geological interest.

MOORE'S WATER GARDENS

Region - Southwestern
District - Aylmer
Conservation Authority
- Kettle Creek



County - Elgin
Township - Yarmouth
Con. II
Lots 1-2

Latitude - 41° 15'
Longitude - 81° 12'

Total Size - 13.4 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
60 per cent swamp
40 per cent marsh

General Description

This wetland, located just north of Port Burwell in the Kettle Creek watershed, is a palustrine site. Because of its position and size, is of little hydrological value. Soils are mainly organic, but some glacial-till derived mineral soils are also present; these are very fertile but susceptible to erosion.

The surrounding area includes active and abandoned agricultural land, deciduous forest and creeks, which provide quite diverse habitats. There are no other wetlands close to Moore's Water Gardens. The vegetation of the wetland consists mainly of willows and cattails; Jewelweed and bur reeds are also common. Communities are not diverse, but are moderately well interspersed. There is very little open water in the area.

Furbearers, such as Muskrats, Raccoons and Mink, are present as are Bullfrogs and Snapping Turtles. Recreational uses of the area include nature appreciation and some hunting. The wetland is used frequently for educational purposes by the local Board of Education, but there are no organized facilities or programs. The area is privately owned and accessibility is limited.

Special Features

Moore's Water Gardens, a wetland located on the Lake Erie Plain, provides habitat for the endangered Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon during their migration through the area. The presence of the Northern Harrier gives the area further significance.

SIFTON BOTANICAL BOG

Region - Southwestern
District - Aylmer
Conservation Authority
  - Upper Thames River

County - Middlesex
City of London

Latitude - 42° 58′
Longitude - 81° 19′

Total Size - 26.75 ha
Class - 2
Type of Wetland -
  70 per cent swamp
  30 per cent bog

General Description

This small, isolated wetland, formerly known as Byron Bog, is located in the southwest corner of the city of London. It is composed of three individual wetland areas. The wetland is located in a depression of the morainic plain above the Thames River Valley. Soils are primarily Burford and Guelph loams with some muck soils.

There is a high diversity of vegetation communities in Sifton Bog, although these communities are poorly interspersed. One of the few floating mat communities in southwestern Ontario is found here. A low growth of Leatherleaf and cranberries with sphagnum mosses is the dominant vegetation on the mat. Also growing in the moss are shrubs such as Bog Rosemary, Huckleberry and Highbush Blueberry. Other plants associated with the bog include Pitcher-plant, Marsh St. John's-wort and sundews. A dense growth of shrubs, mainly buckthorns, dogwoods and willows, is found on the muck soils surrounding the floating mat of the bog. The remaining moist muck soils support a deciduous swamp community where soft maples and birches are the main tree species.

Sifton Botanical Bog is visited frequently by local school and naturalist groups for nature study. These activities are enhanced by a system of trails in the wetland. Local birdwatchers visit the bog regularly throughout the year.

Special Features

The Sifton Bog provides habitat for the provincially significant Southern Bog Lemming and Spotted Turtle. Regionally significant plant species found in Sifton Bog include Black Spruce, Leatherleaf, Pitcher Plant and sundew. This is one of the southernmost bogs in Canada, providing a unique opportunity to study in one setting animals and plants representing Carolinian and Boreal zones.

SPRINGWATER CONSERVATION AREA

Region - Southwestern
District - Aylmer
Conservation Authority
- Catfish Creek

County - Elgin
Township - Malahide
Con. V
Lots 1-4
Con. VI
Lots 3,4
South side Talbot Rd.
Lots 77,78

Latitude - 42° 44′
Longitude - 81° 02′

Total Size - 33.3 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
75 per cent swamp
25 per cent marsh

General Description

This wetland consists of a complex of four individual wetlands, ranging in size from 4.8 ha to 12.6 ha. Soils are mainly mineral with a small proportion of organic types. The site types are palustrine and riverine.

Vegetation communities are quite diverse with soft maples, dead elms, cattails, grasses, water lilies and duckweeds occurring in mixed communities. Surrounding habitat includes active and abandoned agricultural land and deciduous forest. The area is connected by surface water to other nearby wetlands; this provides habitat linkage for wildlife.

Springwater Conservation Area is regionally significant as a habitat for the Pileated Woodpecker, Drooping Wood Reed Grass, Stout Wood Reed Grass, Northern Manna Grass and Downy Rattlesnake Plantain. Spawning of Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass occurs here and fish are abundant. Resources present include Wild Rice, Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles, Muskrats and Raccoons.

The area is used extensively for nature appreciation and receives frequent educational use by such groups as the Elgin County Board of Education, the University of Western

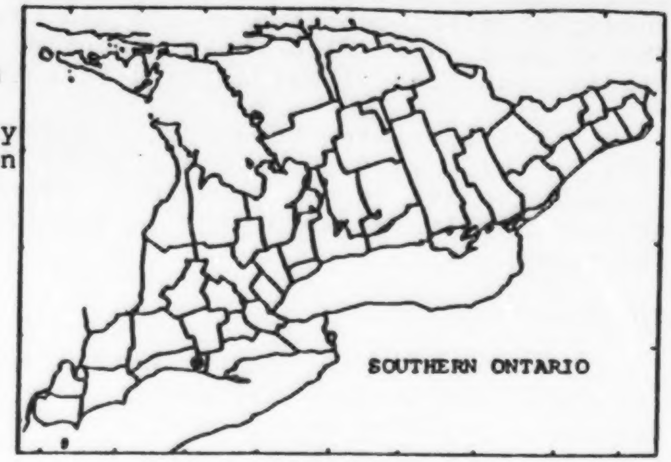
Ontario, Boy Scouts and the St. Thomas Field Naturalists. Facilities provided for these activities include a staffed interpretation centre, trails and interpretive brochures. The wetland has also been identified as a provincially significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI).

There are a few human disturbances in the area. These consist of roads, old logging trails, damming of tributaries and some dredging. Springwater Conservation Area is publicly owned and is easily accessible throughout the year.

Special Features

The Springwater Conservation Area provides habitat for the Bald Eagle and the Peregrine Falcon, both endangered species. Several provincially significant plant and animal species (Hooded Warbler, Red-shouldered Hawk and Northern Harrier) are also found here and the area provides feeding habitat for the Great Blue Heron. This area, located on the Lake Erie Plain, represents a natural wetland and forest habitat in a region where these are now scarce.

STRAFFORDVILLE SWAMP



Region - Southwestern
District - Aylmer
Conservation Authority
-Long Point Region

County - Elgin
Township - Bayham
Con. VI
Lots 128-136

Latitude - 42° 44′
Longitude - 80° 44′

Total Size - 52.5 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
100 per cent swamp

General Description

This wetland, a complex of 10 individual areas ranging in size from 1.0 ha to 12.5 ha, is located south of Tillsonburg in the Otter Creek watershed. The site is mainly palustrine and partially riverine. The complex is responsible for some flow stabilization and water quality improvement, but it has little effect in erosion control. Some mineral soils are present but organic soils dominate.

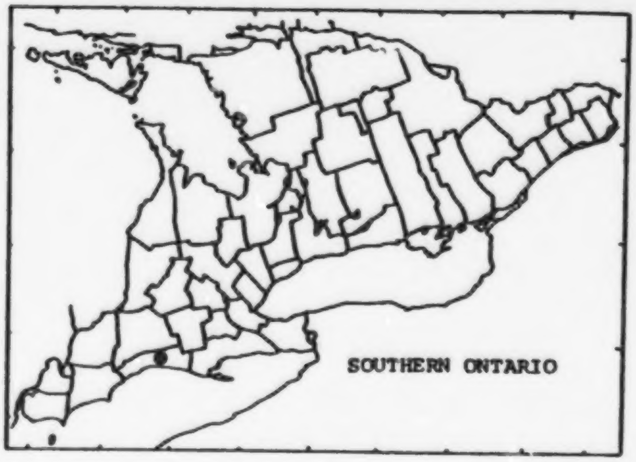
Red Maple, willows, duckweeds, mosses, grasses and ferns occur in mixed and quite diverse communities. Open water occupies only a small portion of the wetland. Crop land, deciduous and coniferous forests, fence rows and hills surround the Straffordville wetland complex.

Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles, Muskrats, Raccoons and Mink occur in the Straffordville Swamp. The area is entirely under private ownership.

Special Features

The Bald Eagle, Golden Eagle and Peregrine Falcon, all endangered species, are known to make use of the Straffordville wetland during migration. The provincially significant Virginia Opossum is also found here and the area represents an uncommon habitat type on the Lake Erie Plain.

WEINER'S WOODLOT



Region - Southwestern
District - Aylmer
Conservation Authority
- Kettle Creek

County - Elgin
Township - Yarmouth
Con. V
Lots 4-5

Latitude - 42° 43'
Longitude - 81° 11'

Total Size - 3.6 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
100 per cent swamp

General Description

The Weiner's Woodlot wetland is a small palustrine site with organic soils. The wetland is responsible for some water quality improvement in the area. It is located in an area of agricultural land, deciduous forest and urban development. Most of the area is covered by open water. Vegetation communities in the wetland are not very diverse. Dead trees, shrubs and young maples occur over much of the area.

Resources found in the wetland include Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles, Muskrats and Raccoons. The area receives some use for nature appreciation. Some localized human disturbances have affected the area; a man-made pond is located on one side of the wetland and timber has been harvested in the past. Weiner's Woodlot is privately owned.

Special Features

The Bald Eagle and the Peregrine Falcon, both endangered species, are known to use Weiner's Woodlot during their migration. The area is also locally significant for waterfowl staging and production.

CHATHAM DISTRICT

Wetland	Class	County	page
Big Creek Marsh	1	Essex	297
Canard River Marsh	1	Essex	299
Cedar Creek	3	Essex	301
Fish Point	3	Essex	303
Hillman Marsh	2	Essex	305
Lighthouse Point	3	Essex	307
Port Franks Wetland	1	Lambton	308
Rondeau Bay Marsh	2	Kent	310
Rondeau Provincial Park	1	Kent	312

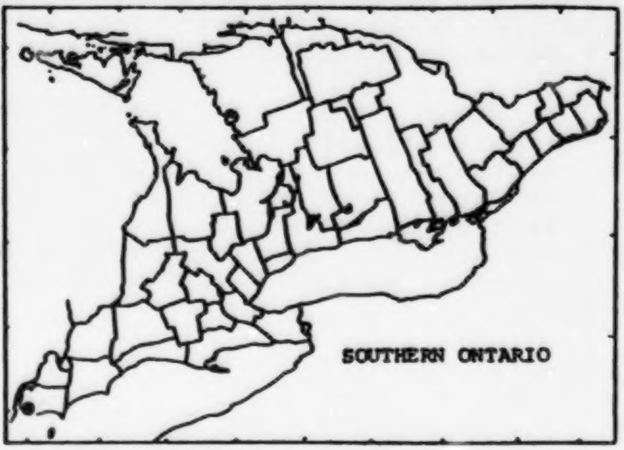
BIG CREEK MARSH

Region - Southwestern
District - Chatham
Conservation Authority
- Essex Region

County - Essex
Township - Malden
Cons. II - VII
Lots 9-14, 33-35, 54-60

Latitude - 42° 02′
Longitude - 83° 03′

Total Size - 1000 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
90 per cent marsh
10 per cent swamp



General Description

Big Creek Marsh, the largest wetland in Essex County, is located in southwestern Essex County southeast of Amherstburg. The dominant site type is riverine at the mouth of Big Creek. More than three-quarters of the wetland is covered by open water. As with other marshes in the area the water is shallow and silt-laden.

Vegetation in the marsh consists primarily of Purple Loosestrife, Water Willow, White and Yellow Water Lilies, cattails, grasses and sedges. Swamp areas are dominated by Buttonbush, willows, arrowheads and duckweeds. Regionally significant plant species found at Big Creek Marsh include the Swamp Horsetail, Marsh Horsetail, Wild Rice, Spike Rush, Umbrella Sedge, Water Hemp, Annual Salt-marsh Aster and Seaside Goldenrod.

The significant tracts of relatively undisturbed lowland and upland forest associated with Big Creek Marsh provide habitat for the White-tailed Deer. The regionally significant Musk Turtle and Ribbon Snake are found in the wetland. The wetland is provincially significant for waterfowl staging, regionally significant for waterfowl production and is an important area for migratory passerines. For many of these reasons the site is also a provincially significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) and considered one of the "critical unprotected natural areas" of the Carolinian zone of Ontario (see Carolinian Canada in Glossary).

Seventy-five per cent of Big Creek wetland is privately owned. Portions of the wetland are owned by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (Holiday Beach Waterfowl Management Unit) and the Essex Region Conservation Authority (Holiday Beach and Big Creek Conservation Areas). These public areas are used for waterfowl hunting, fishing, camping, canoeing, bird watching and picnicking.

Since the Big Creek watershed is predominantly agricultural with little forest cover, runoff of topsoil and pollutants is a major problem. High populations of introduced Carp contribute to the turbidity of the water. Potential threats to the wetland include water quality deterioration, loss of the remaining wooded area, wetland drainage, cottage development and erosion of the barrier beach.

Special Features

The marshes along Big Creek provide nesting and feeding habitat for the Bald Eagle and habitat for the provincially significant Great Egret, Black Tern, Spotted Turtle, Eastern Fox Snake and Blue-spotted Salamander. Provincially rare plants in the Big Creek Marsh include the Saltmarsh Cockspur Grass, Small-flowered Hemicarpha, Red-rooted Sedge, American Lotus, Prairie White-fringed Orchid, Green Dragon, Pin Oak, Yellow Pond Lily, Swamp Rose-mallow and Tickseed Sunflower.

CANARD RIVER MARSHES

Region - Southwestern
District - Chatham
Conservation Authority
- Essex Region

County - Essex
Township - Anderdon
Con. I
Lots 29-40

Latitude - 42° 10'
Longitude - 83° 07'

Total Size - 416.3 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
100 per cent marsh

General Description

The Canard River wetland is composed of two individual marshes: a privately-owned diked marsh and an adjacent marsh at the mouth of the Canard River. The wetland is located on the Detroit River less than 10 km north of Amherstburg.

Mallard, Wood Duck and a few Lesser Scaup inhabit sheltered areas of the Detroit River adjacent to the marsh during the summer. The diked marsh supports some breeding pairs of Pied-billed Grebe, and four heron species (Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Green-backed Heron and Black-crowned Night-Heron) regularly feed here. The provincially significant Least Bittern also occurs in the cattail marshes along the Canard River. The only breeding area for Gadwall in Essex County is the diked marsh of the Canard River.

Much of the wetland is covered by open water where submergents and Pickerelweed are interspersed with regions of cattails and water lilies. Drier sections of the marsh are dominated by grasses. The Canard River is one of the few localities in Ontario where the provincially rare American Lotus is fairly numerous. Another provincially rare flower, the Swamp Rose-mallow, occurs in the diked marsh. The salinity of the area adjacent to the Canard River has resulted in the development of a community of salt-tolerant plant species. This is one of the few such communities in Ontario and includes disjunct species such as the Seaside Goldenrod, a plant of eastern coastal salt marshes. Other provincially significant plant species found in the wetland include Saltmarsh Cockspur Grass and Tickseed Sunflower.

Resources found at Canard River include Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles, Muskrats and Raccoons. Bait fish are harvested from the wetland.

Trespassing is not permitted in the privately owned diked marsh. The marshes along the Canard River are accessible from the river. A high intensity of hunting, fishing and boating occurs here as well as some nature appreciation and study.

Special Features

The Canard River is a nationally significant staging area for waterfowl; more than 10,000 Canvasback Ducks congregate here in late fall. Spring staging of waterfowl is less spectacular than in the fall; still, more than 5,000 Canvasback Ducks utilize the area during March. The wetland also provides habitat for the provincially significant Butler's Garter Snake and Eastern Fox Snake. The site is a regionally significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI).

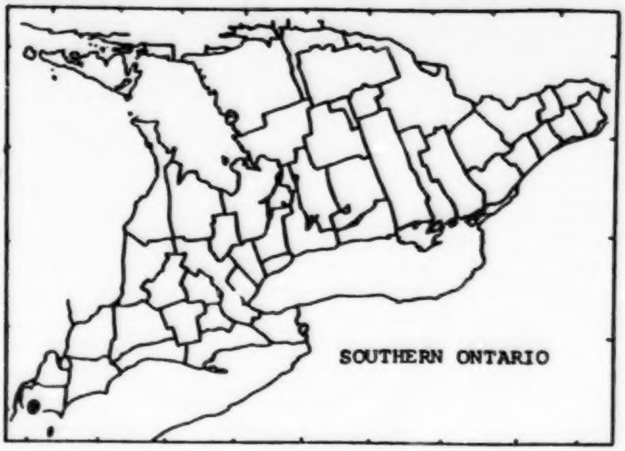
CEDAR CREEK

Region - Southwestern
District - Chatham
Conservation Authority
- Essex Region

County - Essex
Townships - South Gosfield,
South Colchester
Con. Front
Lots 12-35

Latitude - 42° 01′
Longitude - 82° 48′

Total Size - 250 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
95 per cent marsh
5 per cent swamp



General Description

Varying lake levels change the extent of the wetland communities bordering Cedar Creek. These communities, which consist mostly of cattails, dogwoods and willows, occur as borders along the creek. Dead trees are conspicuous components along some sections of the creek bank. Thirteen provincially rare plant species have been reported from Cedar Creek.

Cedar Creek is one of the very few southern Ontario locations where the Bald Eagle still feeds and nests. These wetlands are also important feeding areas for the Great Blue Heron, Great Egret and Black-crowned Night-Heron. Cedar Creek is locally significant for waterfowl production and nearby woodlots provide good breeding habitat for the Wood Duck. The Red-bellied Woodpecker, which is rarely found in Canada outside extreme southwestern Ontario, has nested at Cedar Creek.

Cedar Creek is an important recreational area; activities such as waterfowl hunting, fishing, canoeing, picnicking, birding, nature study and hiking are all enjoyed at Cedar Creek.

Special Features

Cedar Creek is one of the "critical unprotected natural areas" in the Canadian portion of the Carolinian life zone (see Carolinian Canada in Glossary). The marsh and adjacent woodlands have been identified as a provincially significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and as an Environmentally Significant Area by the Essex Region Conservation Authority.

FISH POINT

Region - Southwestern
District - Chatham
Conservation Authority
- Essex Region

County - Essex
Township - Pelee

Latitude - 41° 44'
Longitude - 82° 40'

Total Size - 45 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
50 per cent marsh
50 per cent swamp

General Description

Fish Point is made up of three wetlands: a Silver Maple swamp, a small shrub-bordered pond and a shallow enclosed lake (Fox Pond). The flora of these wetlands and the surrounding wooded areas has many similarities with the mid-western Ohio-Mississippi River lowlands and has some eastern Carolinian influences. Many plant species which are found on Pelee Island do not occur elsewhere in Canada.

Until 1981 the heronry on Pelee island was the largest in Ontario; it contained almost 900 nests of Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, Cattle Egrets and Black-crowned Night-Herons. After 1981 most of the herons moved to nearby Middle Island, but the wetlands of Fish Point continue to be important feeding areas for these herons. Provincially significant herptiles which inhabit Fish Point include the Lake Erie Water Snake, Eastern Fox Snake, Smallmouth Salamander and Blanchard's Cricket Frog.

Almost all naturalists (birders, botanists, herpetologists and photographers) who visit Pelee Island are sure to include Fish Point on their itinerary. In the fall some duck and pheasant hunting occurs.

The southerly location of Fish Point and its combination of natural woodland and wetlands make this site one of the most interesting natural areas in Southern Ontario.

Special Features

Fish Point, a peninsula which forms the southern tip of Pelee Island, is a small-scale replica of Point Pelee. At least 45 species of provincially rare plants are found in the Fish Point wetland. The wetland also contains what is possibly the only Canadian population of Blanchard's Cricket Frog. The endangered Lake Erie Water Snake is another important element of Fish Point's fauna. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources manages most of Fish Point as a provincial Nature Reserve.

HILLMAN MARSH

Region - Southwestern
District - Chatham
Conservation Authority
- Essex Region

County - Essex
Township - Mersea
Con. A Lots 21,22
I 18-22
II 17,18,20

Latitude - 42° 02'
Longitude - 82° 29'

Total Size - 362 ha
Class - 2
Type of Wetland -
80 per cent marsh
20 per cent swamp

General Description

Hillman Marsh is located on Lake Erie, less than 10 km east of Leamington. The dominant site type is lacustrine on Lake Erie at the mouth of Hillman Creek. Soils are chiefly organic.

Dominant plant species in Hillman Marsh include Red Ash, Buttonbush, cattails, willows, duckweeds and grasses. Many regionally significant plant species, including Tall Wormwood and several sedges, are found in the marsh.

There is a high diversity of habitat in the area surrounding Hillman Marsh. The wetland provides good winter habitat for the Muskrat, Ring-necked Pheasant and cottontail. Hillman Marsh is of provincial significance for waterfowl staging. Resources found within Hillman Marsh include carp, Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles and furbearers such as Muskrats, Raccoons, Mink and Red Foxes.

About 10 per cent of Hillman Marsh is privately owned. The wetland is used intensively for recreational activities such as hunting, fishing and boating. The area is also frequented by groups such as the Federation of Ontario Naturalists for nature appreciation and study. These activities are enhanced by a system of self-guiding trails.

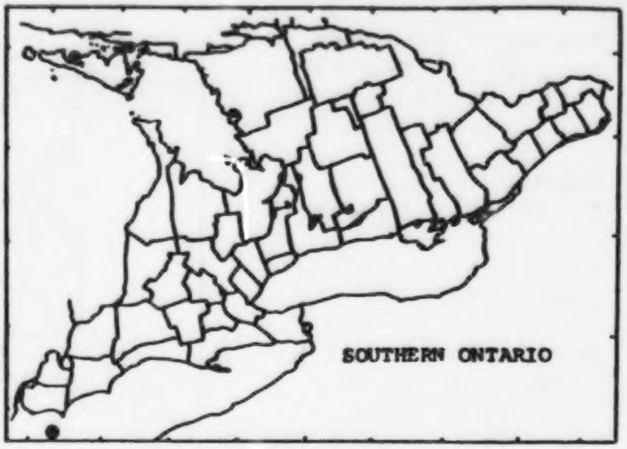
There are intense disturbances in some areas of the wetland including roads, buildings, channelization, drainage and water pollution.

Since rare birds frequently occur here, Hillman Marsh is noted as a local 'hot-spot' for birders visiting Point Pelee. During peak migration, Point Pelee regularly suffers from over-use. By attracting birders away from Point Pelee National Park nearby areas such as Hillman Marsh contribute to reducing the pressure on the park.

Special Features

Hillman Marsh provides habitat for the endangered Bald Eagle as well as many provincially significant animal species including the King Rail, Black Tern, Sedge Wren, Prothonotary Warbler, Spotted Turtle and Eastern Fox Snake. The wetland also supports many provincially rare plants including the Long-leaved Ammania, Bushy Cinquefoil, Pin Oak, Yellow Pond Lily, Many-fruited False Loosestrife and Swamp Rose Mallow. The site is also a regionally significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI).

LIGHTHOUSE POINT



Region - Southwestern
District - Chatham
Conservation Authority
- Essex Region

County - Essex
Township - Pelee

Latitude - 41° 50′
Longitude - 82° 38′

Total Size - 85 ha
Class - 3
Type of Wetland -
80 per cent marsh
20 per cent Swamp

General Description

Severe flooding in 1972 and 1973 resulted in the creation of Lake Henry. Cattails and wetland shrubs are now colonizing this flooded area. The Lighthouse Point wetland is exposed to the wave action of Lake Erie on its northeast side. Dikes isolate the site from adjacent agricultural land.

The flora and fauna of Lighthouse Point have a distinctly southern character. At least 31 provincially rare plant species have been reported at this site. The Double-crested Cormorant, which has only recently begun to re-occupy the western end of Lake Erie, is nesting in the wetland. Snakes are well represented; of particular note are two endangered species, the Lake Erie Water Snake and the Blue Racer, as well as the provincially significant Eastern Fox Snake.

Even though it is relatively isolated because of its Pelee Island location, Lighthouse Point Provincial Nature Reserve is regularly visited by naturalists and is utilized for both pheasant and duck hunting.

Special Features

Lighthouse Point, at the northern tip of Pelee Island, is a provincial Nature Reserve. A colony of Double-crested Cormorants has recently become established in the flooded area known as Lake Henry. The Lake Erie Water Snake and the Blue Racer, provincially endangered species, are more numerous here than at any other location in Canada.

PORT FRANKS WETLAND

Region - Southwestern
District - Chatham
Conservation Authority
- Saugeen Valley

County - Lambton
Township - Bosanquet

Latitude - 43° 14′
Longitude - 81° 55′

Total Size - 123 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
66 per cent swamp
34 per cent marsh

General Description

The Port Franks Wetland is located adjacent to an urban area and is hydrologically connected to Lake Huron. The dominant site type is riverine with underlying organic soil. The interspersion of the vegetation forms is low in the wetland. The dominant species are herbs, sedges, tall shrubs and Tamaracks. Potentially valuable resources within the wetland are mature timber, Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles and furbearers such as Muskrats, Beavers and Raccoons.

The wetland is of high significance as a migratory passerine and/or shorebird stopover area. It also provides a locally significant winter yard for deer. Unusual features within this wetland are an interdunal wet meadow and an ox-bow.

The wetland is entirely privately owned, but a portion of the area (70 per cent) is open to the public for limited activities. There is moderate intensity nature appreciation, fishing, canoeing and boating in the wetland. The level of human disturbance is moderate; disturbance is concentrated around the edges of the wetland, due to the adjacent urban area.

Special Features

The Port Franks Wetland provides habitat for the endangered Bald Eagle. Also present are the provincially significant Spotted Turtle and Sedge Wren. The wetland supports Ontario's largest population of the threatened plant species, Blue Hearts. Other provincially significant plants found in this wetland are Bushy Aster, Stargrass, Tall Ironweed and Tulip Tree (Yellow Poplar). For these and other reasons the site is a provincially significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest. It has also been identified as a "critical unprotected natural area of the Carolinian zone" (see Carolinian Canada in Glossary).

RONDEAU BAY MARSH

Region - Southwestern
District - Chatham
Conservation Authority
- Lower Thames Valley

County - Kent
Township - Harwich

Latitude - 42° 18'
Longitude - 81° 54'

Total Size - 271.1 ha
Class - 2
Type of Wetland -
96 per cent marsh
4 per cent swamp

General Description

The Rondeau Bay wetland complex is composed of 10 individual wetlands ranging in size from 1.7 to 71.3 ha and is on the north shore of Rondeau Bay in Lake Erie. The wetland is exposed to Lake Erie and to the enclosed Rondeau Bay and is predominantly lacustrine. Its large surface area gives the wetland some value for flow stabilization. Since the land use in the catchment basin is primarily agricultural and urban, the wetland's ability to remove nutrients from surface waters on a short-term basis is important. Soils are chiefly organic.

There is very little interspersion of vegetation forms at Rondeau Bay. Dominant vegetation includes Silver Maple, Black Ash, Buttonbush, Arrow Arum, White Water Lily, cattails, dogwoods, duckweeds and pondweeds.

Rondeau Bay provides a provincially significant waterfowl staging and production area as well as nesting habitat for the Black Tern and Forster's Tern. It also provides good winter habitat for pheasants and is a regionally important fish spawning area. Wild Rice, Bullfrogs, Snapping Turtles, Muskrats, Raccoons and Mink as well as an abundance of bait fish are all present at Rondeau Bay.

About 88 per cent of the wetland is privately owned. The remainder of the wetland is public, with easy access at most times of year. Recreational activities enjoyed at Rondeau Bay include hunting, fishing and boating. The wetland is also a regionally significant Area of Natural and

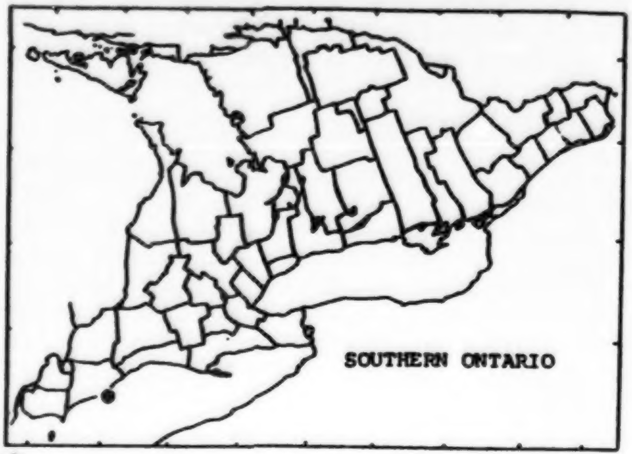
Scientific Interest (ANSI).

Human disturbance to the Rondeau Bay marshes is intense in some areas due to roads, buildings, a utility corridor, channelization, drainage, filling and water pollution.

Special Features

The marshes around Rondeau Bay provide habitat for the endangered Bald Eagle as well as many provincially significant species including the Least Bittern, American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Canvasback, Ruddy Duck, Red-shouldered Hawk, Little Gull, Caspian Tern, Black Tern, Marsh Wren, Spotted Turtle, Eastern Spiny Softshell Turtle, Eastern Fox Snake and Fowler's Toad. The marshes also support the provincially rare Swamp Rose-mallow and Arrow Arum.

RONDEAU PROVINCIAL PARK



Region - Southwestern
District - Chatham
Conservation Authority
 - Lower Thames Valley

County - Kent
Township - Harwich

Latitude - 42° 18′
Longitude - 81° 51′

Total Size - 929.6 ha
Class - 1
Type of Wetland -
80 per cent marsh
20 per cent swamp

General Description

Rondeau Provincial Park was established in 1894 on a large cuspate sand spit on the north shore of Lake Erie. The dominant site types of the wetland are palustrine with permanent or intermittent outflow and lacustrine in areas adjacent to Lake Erie. The wetland's surface area allows it to function to some extent as a detention area for flood waters and for flow augmentation during dry spells.

There is medium interspersion of vegetation forms within the wetland. Dominant vegetation forms in the marsh include robust emergents such as Wild Rice and cattails mixed with shrubs, narrow-leaved emergents and submergents. Some of the provincially rare plants found in the wetland are the American Lotus, Yellow Water Lily, a species of ladies'-tresses, Tall Bellflower, Tickseed Sunflower and several sedge species.

The area is provincially important for both waterfowl staging and production and is a highly significant migratory passerine stopover area. The wetland provides provincially significant deer winter habitat. Some provincially significant birds found at Rondeau include the Least Bittern, Northern Shoveler, American Wigeon, Canvasback, Redhead, Ruddy Duck, Red-shouldered Hawk, King Rail, Little Gull, Forster's Tern, Black Tern, Prothonotary Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush and Hooded Warbler.

The wetland is all publicly owned and is easily accessible. Recreational activities enjoyed here include hunting, fishing and boating. The area is also frequently visited by public school children and others for nature appreciation and study. This activity is enhanced by trails, pamphlets and a museum.

There are a few localized disturbances to the wetland, mainly roads and channelization.

Special Features

After a period of unsuccessful nesting attempts in the 1960s and 1970s the Bald Eagle is again successfully raising young at Rondeau. Rondeau is well-known as a major concentration point for migrant birds. Over 330 species have been reported in the park, including every provincially significant wetland species except the Yellow Rail and Le Conte's Sparrow. Significant wetland species that nest at Rondeau include the Pied-billed Grebe, Least Bittern, Northern Harrier, King Rail, Forster's Tern, Black Tern, Acadian Flycatcher, Marsh Wren, Prothonotary Warbler and Hooded Warbler. Floristically Rondeau is Canada's foremost example of a Carolinian forest. Included in the park's list of over 800 plants are more than 20 provincially rare species.

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GLOSSARY

Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI)

Publicly or privately owned areas of land and water containing natural landscapes or features which have been identified as having values related to protection, natural heritage appreciation, scientific study or education.

Earth science ANSI include sites selected to represent significant bedrock outcrops, fossil localities and landforms. Life science ANSI are chosen to represent the range of environments, natural biological communities, native plants and animals throughout Ontario. ANSI are selected and graded based on systematic geological and ecological surveys to determine the key sites that best represent the elements of Ontario's natural diversity. ANSI may vary in level of significance (i.e. provincial, regional, local). To date, 564 provincially significant ANSI have been identified and designated in the District Land Use Guidelines of the Ministry of Natural Resources. Numerous regionally significant ANSI have also been identified.

Life science ANSI often incorporate choice examples of the different types of wetlands in Ontario. Thus, some areas coincide with some wetlands evaluated in the Ministry's wetlands program. Sites that are both ANSI and Class 1, 2 or 3 wetlands are indicated in this report.

The ANSI program is based on the 1983 Cabinet approved "Policy for Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest" and the 1987 "Implementation Strategy: Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest". The program complements nature protection in Provincial Parks by both representing natural diversity and promoting landowner co-operation.

Carolinian Canada

A program involving private organizations and public agencies working together to conserve critical species and habitats in the Carolinian zone of Ontario. The Carolinian zone, located southwest of a line drawn from Toronto to Grand Bend, supports species such as the Cucumber Tree and Prothonotory Warbler that are more common further south. The program consists of field projects dealing with rare and endangered species and a land securement effort aimed at protecting the natural values of 36 sites identified as "critical unprotected natural areas in the Carolinian life zone of Canada" (a number of alternative sites have also been identified).

Originally conceived by the World Wildlife Fund (Canada), Carolinian Canada has evolved to include the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Wildlife Habitat Canada, the Ontario

Heritage Foundation, the Ministries of Natural Resources and Culture and Communication as well as other members of the Natural Heritage League. Securing the land occupied by the 36 sites is proceeding with shared funding from the co-operating organizations and agencies.

Detention Area
Areas which detain rising flood waters, thus providing an important hydrological function. Lakes, reservoirs, and many wetlands serve this function.

Emergent Plants (Emergents)
Erect, rooted herbaceous plants which may be temporarily or permanently flooded at the base but are nearly always exposed at the upper portion.

Endangered Species
Any naturally occurring animal or plant which, on the basis of the best available scientific evidence, shows indications of being threatened with immediate extinction throughout all or a portion of its provincial range. These species are designated under Ontario's Endangered Species Act.

Flow Augmentation
The wetland function of releasing water over an extended period of time, thus augmenting flows during what would otherwise be periods of low water levels. This is primarily a function of palustrine wetlands.

Flow Stabilization
The function of wetlands in accumulating water during floods and releasing it in various ways over a more extended period of time. In this way, flood crests may be reduced and flow between floods may be increased.

Interspersion
A measure of the presence and length of "ecotone" or certain kinds of "edge" habitat between different types of vegetation. Areas with high interspersion often contain large numbers and diversity of wildlife.

Isolated Wetlands
Wetlands that have no surface runoff.

Lacustrine Wetlands
Wetlands associated with lakes (>8 hectares).

Palustrine Wetlands
Wetlands with absent or intermittent stream inflow and either intermittent or permanent stream outflow. These are often headwater areas.

Provincially Significant Species

Any animal or plant species considered provincially rare because it is a relict, at the limits of its range, occurs in low numbers over a wide area, occurs in a small area but is common locally, or is considered threatened. A list of provincially significant animal species is given in "An Evaluation System for Wetlands of Ontario South of the Precambrian Shield". Provincially significant plant species are those designated as rare in the "Atlas of the Rare Vascular Plants of Ontario".

Provincially Significant Wetlands

Class 1 and 2 wetlands (see Table 1).

Regionally Significant Species

Regional significance of plant and animal species is based on the same criteria as outlined above for provincially significant species, but on a more regional or local level. These species may be regionally rare or uncommon, but quite common in other parts of southern Ontario.

Regionally Significant Wetlands

Class 3 wetlands (see Table 1).

Riverine Wetlands

Wetlands including the channel of continuously moving water as well as adjacent wetlands and floodplains of rivers and permanent streams.

Submergent Plants (Submergents)

Aquatic plants that are entirely submerged beneath the water surface, except for flowering parts in some species.

APPENDIX

Alphabetical Listing of Evaluated Wetlands

	Page
Albury Swamp	73
Alfred Bog	11
Alton-Hillsburgh Wetland Complex	139
Atherley Narrows Wetland	119
Aylmer Wildlife Management Area	263
Baie du Dore Wetland	223
Baie Lafontaine	13
Bainsville Bay Marsh	14
Barnstable Bay	120
Beverly Swamp	167
Big Creek Marsh	297
Big Island Marsh	75
Big Sand Bay	77
Black River Swamp	169
Bluffs Creek	121
Buell's Creek Reservoir	41
Calcium Pits Swamp	171
Caledon Creek Swamp	141
Caledon Lake	143
Calton Swamp	265
Camp Creek Wetland #10	225
Canard River Marshes	299
Carillon Park Marsh	16
Carruther's Creek Marsh	145
Cedar Creek	301
Charleston Lake Wetland	43
Charlottenburgh Marsh	18
Cobourg Marsh	99
Cooligan Marshes	45
Cootes Paradise	173
Corner's Pond	267
Cranberry Marsh	100
Cranberry Lake-Atkins Lake (Wolford Bog Pt. 1)	47
Cressy Swamp	79
Dalrymple Lake	122
Dexter Woodlot	268
Doran Creek Marsh	20
Dry Lake	187
Dunnville Marshes	189
Eramosa River Swamp	175
Erco Wetland	191
ES-1	270
ES-2	271
EY-9	272
EY-10	273
EY-24	274

Fifteen Mile Creek 192
Fish Lake Wetland 81
Fish Point 303
Frenchman's Bay 147
Galt Creek Swamp 177
Glanworth Wetland 275
Grand River Marshes 194
Greenough Harbour Wetland 226
Grenadier Island Wetland 49
Hanlan's Bog 51
Hatchley Swamp 249
Hearn's Wetland 277
Hillman Marsh 305
Hog's Bay Marsh 123
Holland Marsh 149
Hoasic Creek Wetland 21
Hoople Creek Wetland 23
Howdenvale Bay Fen 228
Humber River Marshes 151
Huyck's Bay 83
Irish Lake and Creek Wetland 53
Jolley Swamp 279
Jones Creek Marsh 55
Jordan Station Marsh 196
Keldon Swamp 230
Kettle Creek Woods 280
Kirk-Cousins Management Area 282
Lake Consecon Marsh 85
Lake St. John 124
Lake Whittaker 284
Lamb's Pond 57
Lee's Pond 59
Leeder's Creek 61
Lighthouse Point 307
Limerick Swamp 63
Lily Oak Swamp 232
Little Lake Wetland 125
Loch Garry 25
Long Point Wetland 251
Lover's Creek Swamp 126
Lower Otonabee River Wetland Complex 102
Luther Marsh 179
Lynde Creek Shores 104
Lyndhurst/Singleton Lakes 65
Mara County Forest 128
Marl Lake 129
Matchedash Bay Marsh 131
Minesing Swamp 133
Moore's Water Gardens 286
Moose Creek Swamp 27
Morewood Swamp 29
Moulton East Wetland 198
Moulton West Wetland 200

Mud Lake Swamp (Huronia) 135
Mud Lake (Niagara) 202
Musselman Lake 153
Nanticoke Creek Marsh 253
Negro Lakes Wetland 234
Oliphant Wetland 235
Oshawa Filtration Plant Wetland 106
Oshawa's Second Marsh 108
Otonabee Midriver Wetland Complex 111
Parker Island Marsh 31
Peripheral Marsh 254
Port Franks Wetland 308
Pottageville Swamp 155
Presqu'ile Bay Marsh 87
Rattray Marsh 157
Riverside Marsh 32
Robson Lakes Wetland Complex 237
Rondeau Bay Marsh 310
Rondeau Provincial Park 312
Roseville Swamp 181
Rotten Lake Wetland 113
Rouge River Wetland 159
Sawguin Creek Marsh 89
Sifton Botanical Bog 288
Silver Creek Swamp 183
Skipness Wetland Complex 239
Sleswick Complex 161
Springwater Conservation Area 290
Stokes Bay Wetland 240
Straffordville Swamp 292
Sturgeon Bay Wetland Complex 136
Sucker Creek Wetland 242
Taquanyah Conservation Area 204
Tara Wetland 244
The Bog Marsh 67
Turkey Point Marsh 256
Unionvillle Marsh 163
Upper Canada Migratory Bird Sanctuary 33
Wainfleet Bog 206
Waterford Ponds 258
Weiner's Woodlot 293
Wellers's Bay Wetland 1 91
West Lake 93
West Side Beach Marsh 115
Westley's Creek Marsh 35
Winchester Swamp 37
Wolford Bog Part 4 68
Young Tract 1 208
Young Tract 2 210
Young Tract 3 212
Young Tract 4 214
Young Tract 5 215
Young Tract 6 217